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Latin America Report



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22 July 1985

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

TERMS OF MEXICAN, ARGENTINE COMPENSATORY EXCHANGE SET OUT

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 29 May 85 p 15-A

[Text] The Compensatory Exchange Programs (PIC) between Mexico and Argentina will facilitate reciprocal trade, using, for the first time, unconventional methods for the foreign trade between two Latin American nations.

The Mexican Business Council on International Affairs (CEMAI) has reported that the mechanism, approved last April by the respective governments, calls for the coordinating business entities to carry out 4-month operations with lines of credit for reciprocal financing of exports.

The credit lines receive backing from the Central Bank of the Argentine Republic and the National Foreign Trade Bank of Mexico (BANCOMEXT).

The PIC mechanism will be governed by the rules of the market and will resort to the use of the existing foreign trade devices as well as traditional payments.

CEMAI notes that a common barter is by no means involved, nor are the users forced to concern themselves with compensating individually for their exports with imports coming from the other country.

It explains that the aim is for the combined sales of goods and services of one of the parties to grant 100 percent allowance in the volume of operations to be carried out by the country's business firms.

It stressed that the goals of the PIC are based on a consideration of, and a sizable increase in bilateral trade, improving the mutual supplies, raising the external purchasing capacity and promoting a source of sound economic reactivation.

The PIC also fosters the introduction of a "moderate diversion" of exchange that would decontrol the use of freely convertible foreign currencies, to be used in the trade with third markets or in the payment of the foreign debt.

The PIC operations allow 60 days before each 4-month period to the business firms concerned to submit a note recording their intention of exporting to the purchasing country's market.

Once the operation has been authorized by the commercial authorities of both countries, the transactions indicated in each presentation, which is known as a pre-commitment for export, must be carried out, subsequently making the commercial exchange involving the two countries.

Finally, the CEMAI emphasized that there are no penalties for those who fail to fulfill the export commitments.

Nevertheless, the parties concerned will maintain the basis of the mechanism, which consists of being able to establish, in advance, the opportunity for equalling, with a 5 percent allowance, the overall balances of the exchange actually carried out.

2909

CSO: 3248/413

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CARICOM WANTS TRINIDAD AS AGRICULTURAL BASE MARKET

FL131635 Bridgetown CANA in English 2210 GMT 12 Jun 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, June 12--A request has been made by a number of Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries for Trinidad and Tobago to become a base market for the selling of agricultural produce, Agriculture Minister Kamalludin Mohammed has announced here.

Speaking to reporters on his return from a Caricom agriculture ministers meeting in Jamaica last week, Mohammed announced a new two-year board for the state-run Central Marketing Agency (CMA) which will study the request.

He said the CMA and officials of his ministry would look into short- and long-term plans for canning and processing of produce in conjunction with local agricultural organisations, canners and manufacturers.

We in Trinidad and Tobago have had to seek the derogation clause of the Caricom Agreement for items such as sweet peppers, shrimp, fish, tomatoes, lettuce, and cabbage because we ourselves are overproducing these commodities, Mohammed said.

However, we believe that if we develop proper marketing strategies and areas for the production, packaging and grading of the things we produce for export, both in green form as well as in processed form, we will be able to absorb all the production and tell the farmers in the country that we want you to produce without stopping at all.

Mohammed said regular production of agricultural products this year had surpassed all previous levels, mainly due to government incentives to farmers over the last 12 years, the distribution of over 2,000 acres of state land to farmers over the last two years, renewed work by extension officers, and the increased interest in backyard gardening.

For the first time in our history, we have reached the highest proportion of production in agricultural commodities grown by the farmers of Trinidad and Tobago, said the minister.

CSO: 3298/826

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO SEES PROBLEMS LOOMING AT CARICOM MEETING

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 85 p 40

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago's position at next week's Caricom Heads of Government summit in Barbados is likely to be informed by the widespread view among Cabinet ministers that this country should call for a review of the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

The Cabinet is at the moment considering a proposal put to it by Industry and Commerce Minister Wendell Mottley, calling for a review of the treaty, on the principal ground that this country is not benefiting from its relationships with Caricom member states.

The Mottley position was drafted in his report to Cabinet following the last meeting of the Caricom Council of (Trade) Ministers, held in Georgetown, Guyana, two months ago.

According to information reaching the EXPRESS, Government and business leaders in the country have decided that the spirit of the Treaty of Chaguaramas is not being honoured by all member states, and that present arrangements are working against the interest of other members, including Trinidad and Tobago.

"It is a question now of whether the whole thing should not be reviewed," one government source said yesterday. He said that there were persistent attitudes from Caricom member states which made it difficult for this country to continue to operate in good faith within the 13-member grouping of English-speaking Caribbean countries.

"They are only interested in what is important to them," the source said, referring to the report of an agreement reached between a government-owned airline in Antigua and British Airways for new air services between Antigua and London.

The EXPRESS has also been reliably informed that it was because of the lack of a perception of goodwill from its Caricom partners that Trinidad and Tobago dragged its feet in taking to Parliament legislation giving effect to measures agreed to at last year's summit in Nassau.

At the Georgetown meeting, Mottley committed Trinidad and Tobago to effecting elements of the "Nassau Understanding" which was designed to open up the deadlock in intra-regional trade which has been strangulating during the past two years. The conference decided that June 1 was the date by which delinquent member states were to put those measures in place, initiatives which were originally to become effective January 1, this year.

Going into next week's meeting, however, no legislation has reached the Parliament and the delegation from Port of Spain is said to be bracing for an onslaught from other member states.

Among the agreements reached in Nassau last July, this country was supposed to increase the tariffs on extra-regional imports which were available in the region, and to remove quantitative restrictions to trade within the region.

The former initiative, however, has been determined to be "politically sensitive" when taken in conjunction with new customs and stamp duties imposed in the 1985 Budget. The latter was conditional upon the implementation in other member states, particularly the Lesser Developed Countries (LDC's), in the region adopting specific measures addressed to them in the Nassau agreement.

A number of those countries have as well not yet complied with the relevant clauses in the "Nassau Understanding."

CSO: 3298/814

22 July 1985

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

OECS LEADERS DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Diplomatic Pooling

FL142045 Bridgetown CANA in English 1847 GMT 14 Jun 85

[Article by George Worme]

[Text] St Georges, June 14--Prime Ministers John Compton of St Lucia, Herbert Blaize of Grenada, and James Mitchell of St Vincent and the Grenadines favour the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) broadening current arrangements for joint diplomatic representation overseas.

In separate interviews with the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), the three leaders who are attending the OECS summit here noted that there is already joint foreign representation in Canada and to a limited extent in London.

Blaize stressed that he and the other OECS leaders would be looking to see if this could be broadened as a matter of policy, in order for the Eastern Caribbean states to speak with one voice abroad.

Compton stated that in the discussions among the heads of governments of the near four-year-old organisation, some of the leaders are looking at joint representation in Washington, as well as a diplomatic presence in Brussels where the headquarters of the European Community (EEC) is based.

I think it is important for us to look at Brussels now, particularly when so much of our aid comes from the European community, and the fact is that we ought to have a presence because each of us cannot afford to have a presence there, so there must be a joint presence of the eastern Caribbean.

I think it is important for us to not only discuss this but come up with a positive solution to this position. I am a regional man. I always think that we ought not only for the question of economy but for a question of political and diplomatic effectiveness, that we ought to have joint positions, Compton said.

Compton said that the small island nations of the eastern Caribbean would only be fooling themselves by attempting to have their own representations in the international community.

The important thing is that we have enough votes to make ourselves known and respected, and I think these are the things which we should use. These are the only weapons we have, the weapons of our sovereignty and independence, our voice in the international field, he added.

Mitchell said that he would like to see the OECS states increase their joint overseas representation, although there are current difficulties in that some countries are not paying their contributions on time and have certain financial stresses. I would like to see us establish a joint mission in Washington, and I would like to see us (at this meeting) fix a date when that could come into place, he remarked.

Compton on Trade

FL151348 Bridgetown CANA in English 2011 GMT 15 Jun 85

[Text] St Georges, June 14--St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton wants a stronger commitment to the regional cause to emerge from the seventh meeting of the heads of government of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) which ends here today.

Compton told CANA that he would like the other leaders attending the two-day meeting to discuss in particular a joint approach to the trade problems in the region, in time for the July 1-4 summit of the wider Caribbean Community (Caricom) to be held in Barbados.

The St Lucia leader complained that since Caricom heads at their meeting in the Bahamas last July agreed to measures to restore and increase intra-regional trade levels, there had been very little movement in this direction by the 12 Common Market member states.

He said that in some cases because of the action and reaction of Trinidad and Tobago to combat their own problems, the trading channels to the oil-rich republic have been virtually blocked, seriously affecting the economies of the smaller islands, including St Lucia.

I believe that we in the OECS now have to look at our response to that, he said.

Compton said Trinidad and Tobago enjoys a 13 million dollar trade surplus with St Lucia.

In efforts to protect their domestic industries and slow down foreign exchange outflows, both Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica have imposed restrictions on certain imports, including garments produced by several of the eastern Caribbean islands.

CSO: 3298/826

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SUGAR PROSPECTS IN CARIBBEAN DIM, EXCEPT IN GUYANA

FL181259 Bridgetown CANA in English 1818 GMT 17 Jun 85

[Text] Georgetown, Jun 16--With the international sugar market saturated and prices at rock bottom, the only good industry news here is that production is climbing. In other Caribbean Community (Caricom) states, however, the picture seems a lot bleaker.

Estimates from the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) indicate that 114,230 short tons of the commodity--the country's major foreign exchange earner--have been produced for the 1985 first crop, which ended in May. This figure represents an improvement of 7,710 tons over the first crop target of 106,520 tons.

Harvesting of the second crop in the 83,000 square mile country on the northern coast of South America begins in July and ends in October. Some 180,000 tons are expected from that crop.

A Guysuco official has ascribed the first crop performance to the cooperation of sugar workers and also to the exceptionally good weather which has reduced the ton-cane to ton-sugar ratio by increasing the sucrose content of the cane.

But the United States reduction in its sugar-import quota from 3.05 million short tons to 2.55 million short tons for 1984-85 along with current low world market price of four U.S. cents per pound is reducing the profitability of cane sugar production.

Production costs in excess of 20 U.S. cents per pound. And it has been estimated that the U.S. quota cuts will cost the Caricom region some U.S. 10 million dollars in foreign exchange.

The situation is further compounded by the current weakness of the pound sterling, the currency in which sugar prices are quoted, since this country's currency is not pegged to any single currency but to a basket including the Dutch florin, the West German mark, the Japanese yen and the French franc.

In several other regional countries production is falling, the decline accelerated by transfer of sugar lands to other crops. Jamaica is turning

over vast acreages of land on four sugar estates to vegetable farmers in response to pressures from the World Bank.

Caroni Limited, the state-owned company in Trinidad and Tobago, has concluded that sugar as far as a major source of foreign exchange is dead, although the 92,000 tons produced last year was an improvement on the target of 80,000 tons.

Although sugar production has reached the 100,000-ton target in Barbados, officials still have doubts about the future. And Belize is considering the transfer of 82 percent of the industry, which is privately owned, to the workers.

Although higher prices are obtained on the guaranteed European Economic Community (EEC) market under the Lome Convention and in the United States, most regional producers have been unable to satisfy their quotas.

The result is that Guyana, whose annual production normally exceeds 265,000 tons, has to step in to satisfy the domestic requirements of some of its Caricom neighbours so that they can be in a better position to fulfill their quota requirements.

In addition, the strengthening of the U.S. dollar, to which most Caribbean currencies are pegged, has reduced the real income from exports to the EEC.

The Trinidad and Tobago Government has had to pump 492 million dollars into the sugar sector between 1973 and 1983. Now, when earnings from the petroleum sector are declining, the subsidy becomes increasingly difficult to maintain. And the World Bank has recommended that the industry be abandoned, although Caroni officials believe a 100,000-ton target could be reached.

But because of the EEC's decision to reduce Trinidad and Tobago's share of the market because of production shortfalls, Caroni Limited is faced with a contracted export market.

While Barbados has reached its production target for sugar output, a government advisor has warned that production costs may be cut in order to maintain profitability. And the St. John administration is apparently considering crop diversification as a [words indistinct] the Sugar Manufacturers Association of Jamaica is confident that 210,000 tons can be produced this year, up from the 170,000 tons last years.

Meanwhile, Guysuco's diversification programme continues, with increased emphasis on rice and vegetable cultivation and inland fishing.

CSO: 3298/814

ARGENTINA

OPPOSITION SCORES AGREEMENT WITH IMF

PY141512 [Editorial Report] Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish at 1951 GMT on 13 June reports the statement made in Congress by Jose Luis Manzano, president of the Justicialist bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, who labeled the agreement reached with the IMF as "catastrophic" and said the economy of the country "is in the hands of inept and irresponsible people." Manzano added that there cannot be economic "adjustment without consensus" and that President Raul Alfonsin "has surrendered to the IMF."

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 2015 GMT on 13 June carries the text of a communique saying: "The Intransigent Party National Committee calls on the people for a march to repudiate the agreement reached by the government with the IMF, the result of which has already been felt through the harsh economic measures recently implemented.

"The call is for 8 July, and in order to implement the march a commission has been appointed to establish contact immediately with the CGT, the political parties, and the various social sectors to take joint action."

Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 2035 GMT on 13 June reports on the statements made by Alvaro Alsogaray, deputy for the Democratic Union, who said that the government is about to implement an economic "shock" plan. He labeled the plan "another destructive and irresponsible experiment, typical of apprentices of sorcery, which is going to shake the country hard."

He added that a "treatment of this type can only be tolerated under extreme situations if it is part of a well-balanced, long-range policy." Regarding the agreement with the IMF, Alsogaray said that the agreement was "absolutely necessary" to refinance the foreign debt, although he regretted that the agreement "was delayed 1 and 1/2 year, keeping the country on the brink of bankruptcy."

Alsogaray also pointed out that "the signing of the agreement will strongly affect the standard of living of the population," and that "there will be more inflation and recession, because recessive policies have been adopted instead of making a readjustment within the context of economic expansion."

CSO: 3348/744

ARGENTINA

GERMAN INSTITUTE PREDICTS FAILURE OF ECONOMIC MEASURES

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Jun 85 p 3

[Text] Kiel, FRG, 18 June--The World Economics Institute of the University of Kiel (Federal Republic of Germany), linked by some Argentine newspapers with Raul Alfonsin's economic reform, today categorically denied allegations that it had spawned the plan, and predicted the failure of the program announced by the Argentine president.

Ulrich Hielmenz, one of the four economic experts at the institute who studied Argentina's economic situation last year and submitted a report to the government in Buenos Aires on possible solutions to the crisis, told the EFE news agency today that Alfonsin's reform program differs substantially from the proposals he and his colleagues drew up. He added that it will have no positive practical effects.

The German expert asserted that they had advised against the measures which the Argentine president has gone ahead and made the centerpieces of his reform package, such as the freezing of wages and prices. According to Hielmenz, this will not help combat inflation.

Budget Deficit

On the other hand, added the Kiel Institute economist, so far it is not known what measures the Argentine Government will adopt to reduce the budget deficit, though this step is absolutely essential and imperative.

Drastic measures to cut public spending must necessarily accompany an economic reform package like the one Argentina is implementing, added Hielmenz. He cited the example of those adopted by West Germany in 1948.

Hielmenz was especially critical on this point, claiming that he and his colleagues had presented a list of 12 points for reducing the deficit. He has not heard anything about them since, however.

Thus, the experts proposed that state-owned enterprises be turned over to the private sector, and in some cases shut down, including the so-called Military Manufacturing Companies and everything from hospitals to construction firms.

In contrast, the new Argentine Government needlessly created 100,000 new civil service jobs, according to Hielmenz, which increased the deficit.

The German experts also recommended that the government increase its revenues through tax reform and by collecting taxes more effectively.

Cut Subsidies

Another proposal, which has not appeared in the new program, was to cut subsidies to private companies through cheap credit.

The experts also said that it is imperative that ties between the Central Bank and the Economy Ministry be severed, making the former completely autonomous.

Concluding his criticism, Hielmenz pointed out that the 18-percent devaluation will be cancelled out by the parallel rise in export taxes and import duties, which will not enhance the competitiveness of Argentine industry.

8926

CSO: 3348/762

ARGENTINA

CENTRAL BANK OFFICIAL REITERATES ECONOMIC PLAN ENDORSEMENT

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Jun 85 p 10

[Text] Marcelo Da Corte, one of the directors of the Central Bank, recalled that President Raul Alfonsin "has said that we will not issue any more" currency, and stressed that for this reason, "from now on the state-run enterprises will have to finance themselves."

Da Corte also emphasized that the enterprises that are in state hands "for no reason should return to the private sector," because, among other reasons, "it was not the democratic governments that acquired them."

The official also denied that the anti-inflation program implemented by the government met with resistance among the Central Bank's directors. On the contrary, he asserted that Board Chairman Alfredo Concepcion "contributed to the implementation of the economic reform."

Da Corte made these statements during an interview with Radio Rivadavia, in which he stressed that the public enterprises "will have to finance themselves from now on, which means that they will have to improve their efficiency and raise their rates, as authorized by the Economy Ministry."

The official pointed out, in this regard, that "the enterprises that are in state hands for no reason should return to the private sector, because it was not the democratic governments that acquired them."

Although he declined to go into more detail on the matter, Da Corte emphasized that "as an Argentine I cannot fail to consider the need for modernization" in public administration and for "an efficient state."

When asked about reports that part of the Central Bank Board of Directors opposed the reforms, which supposedly led to the resignation of Chairman Alfredo Concepcion, the official denied them categorically. He pointed out that "at all times the directors were apprised of what was going to take place."

Da Corte insisted later that "there was never any resistance" to the economic plan drawn up by Minister Juan Sourrouille, and asserted that "Dr Concepcion contributed to the implementation of the economic reform."

When asked if interest rates are too high to achieve zero inflation, Da Corte said that "this question depends on people's attitudes about savings."

He admitted, however, that interest rates "may be a little high," but he justified the levels by citing the need "to maintain the deposit system, bearing in mind that savers are used to earning 28 or 29 percent interest."

He went on to indicate that "we must do away with the 7-day rates, because this trend toward shorter terms is a consequence of inflation."

The official repeated that "after the freeze on dollar deposits expires, they will be returned."

Finally, Da Corte indicated that the opening of the Bank of Italy and Rio de la Plata "is a certainty," and contended that the mechanism that rehabilitated that financial institution "is a new experience for the country," since the reopening was due to "the contributions of the private sector, customers from other banks, and the bank's own staff." For this reason, "the state did not have to provide any funding."

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CSO: 3348/762

ARGENTINA

MSGR DI STEFANO ADDRESSES ECONOMIC SITUATION

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jun 85 p 6

[Text] The president of the Social Pastoral team of the Catholic Church, Msgr Italo Di Stefano, called on the government to "explain itself" with regard to the foreign debt problem. He also asserted that "if the Argentine sees means and possibilities for self-fulfillment through production and labor, he will not refuse any kind of contribution, because he knows that the success of his efforts will be guaranteed."

"It appears to me that what is needed here is, among other things, a real accounting," stated the prelate. Along these lines, he indicated that "Argentines have a right to know what has happened, what is happening, what is owed to whom and why, and what specific commitments we all have to take on."

Di Stefano, who is archbishop of San Juan, made these statements to the Noticias Argentinas news service here at the end of the first meeting of the new Social Pastoral team. The team was elected early this month by the plenary of bishops who deliberated in San Miguel, Buenos Aires.

Disenchantment Syndrome

The prelate also warned that "we are once again tempted with evasion, as has happened in other circumstances and under very severe conditions." He also expressed alarm at the potential for "disenchantment and unrest among Argentines."

In addition, Msgr Di Stefano contended that "at this time there is too much energy concentrated on the exaggeration of positions within sectors and subsectors, which accentuates the differences and disagreements among Argentines."

Returning to the question of the foreign debt, he asserted that "if we Argentines are told that we must undertake a certain recovery project, we will not hesitate to put our shoulders to the wheel. But we Argentines want the truth, we want an explanation, and I think we have every right to expect it."

The Truth

In this regard, he added that "the people should not be led from one surprise to another, from one disappointment to another, like a nation that has just lost a war or suffered some disaster and is contemplating the results, the rubble, the ruins, and knows that it has to devote all its energy to a real recovery."

"Now," he stressed, "I believe that Argentines are not being told the whole truth here; it is acknowledged that the problem is serious, critical, delicate, that we will overcome it. But Argentines want these problems to be solved by giving work to everyone, rather than increasing the burdens," he indicated.

Di Stefano claimed that "the Argentine is willing to make the factories work, to make the land produce, to exploit all technical resources; the young people graduating from our technical institutes and universities want to put all their intelligence and abilities to work on behalf of the recovery of Argentina."

He asserted that "if they are presented concrete goals for raising production, settling all of the Argentine interior, then Argentines will take up the challenge, the offer."

"Their spirit is more than generous," he contended, "but Argentines are confused by the idea that the only possible solution lies in increasing the burdens, the weight on their own shoulders."

He added in this regard that "Argentines would even be willing to accept an increase in contributions, as long as there are employment possibilities."

"We see this," he stressed, "in businesses, in the professions, in the rural sector; these people see marvelous resources at hand, but they are profoundly confused right now."

He indicated that "today it is no longer appropriate to launch accusations about what could have happened in other times, because the rural sector (which includes agriculture as well as other fields: livestock, forestry, mining, fishing and others) wants employment possibilities and will do its part to overcome this extremely difficult crisis in which we find ourselves."

8926

CSO: 3348/762

ARGENTINA

NEUQUEN INDIANS REPORTEDLY BEING DIVESTED OF LAND

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Jun 85 sec 2 p 6

[Text] Neuquen is the scene of discriminatory treatment, constant hostility and outrageous exploitation of simple people by landowners and authorities. Most of these victims are Indians who are practically defenseless. Year after year, fencing with barbed wire, the disappearance of property lines, the theft of livestock, the burning of ranches and belongings, and refusal by officials to confirm pasture leases of lands occupied under a 1944 decision by the national government, force these people to abandon their lands and subject them to a certain fate of hunger and countless hardships. These accusations are made by the Los Miches Aid Association in the federal capital. The association reports that the 80 families that lived on that Indian reservation in 1943 have been reduced to only 25 at present, not due to emigration but rather to the high mortality rate induced by poverty.

Similar Accusation

These assertions are generally similar to those made by the missionary priests of the Nuestra Senora de Andacollo parish, Ceferino Miazzi and Rafael Silfre. The two priests also include the villages of Las Ovejas and Bella Vista in their accusations; all locales are in the department of Minas, in the north-east sector of the province of Neuquen.

We have learned that since the end of last year, residents of these areas have been plagued with a variety of problems stemming from the "abnormal" operations of the General Land Office, a provincial entity.

Thus, some residents who have been paying their pasturage taxes for grazing permits at that office continually for the past 18 years are now being prevented from doing so, with no explanation whatsoever.

Moreover, add the missionaries, the measurements or boundary surveys conducted by the Land Office in previous years were carried out after a meeting with residents for explanations and consultations. Now, however, in a "new attitude," the right to obtain information and be consulted is being ignored for the sole purpose of giving privileged recognition to new occupants.

In addition to this abnormal functioning of the Land Office, since December 1984 several brothers in the Urrutia family, including Alfredo (a former

provincial deputy for the Neuquen Popular Movement who is now a government official) and Hernan (mayor of the municipality of Las Ovejas), have been indiscriminately abusing elderly, humble laborers. They force these men to abandon their land by repeatedly intimidating and threatening them, claiming the spurious legal rights granted by the suspect Land Office.

Dispute

Two of the victims filed a suit arising out of this matter in the Zapala criminal court on 16 May. In their suit, they claim that the Land Office refuses to accept their payment of fees for use of the 700 hectares of fields they have been occupying, and that a summer pasture was burned, and months later, the house they were living in.

Finally, they quote from a message by Father Miazzi that was broadcast on radio station LU 5 of Neuquen, in which he stated: "I share the hopes of the humble people of our valleys that their rights to the land they have been working for so many years will be recognized; that the continued raping of the land by local moguls will cease; that democracy will not become mere pretty phrases; and that people will stop preaching sermons about sacrifice and patriotism on the part of border residents, when in reality these residents are not being allowed to live, and every effort is being made to guarantee the depopulation of the mountains and the evacuation of the border."

8926

CSO: 3348/762

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ELECT PRESIDENT--Cordoba, 10 Jun (TELAM)--Dr Carlos Auyero was elected the president of the national executive board of the Christian Democratic Party during a convention that ended today at dawn in which 133 conventioners participated. Auyero won 73 votes against 61 for the opposing list headed by Arturo Ponsatti. The results were revealed at 0500 today after a hot debate that strained the participants, who started their uninterrupted meeting at 1800 yesterday. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1246 GMT 10 Jun 85]

ALFONSIN TO VISIT FRANCE--Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (TELAM)--French Deputy Foreign Minister Jean Mitchel Baylet confirmed today at Government House that President Raul Alfonsin will visit France between 18 and 20 September 1985. Baylet, who is visiting our country, confirmed the President's trip in remarks to the press after a meeting with Alfonsin at Government House. Baylet will hold a press conference tomorrow at 1530, at the Aerolineas Argentinas VIP hall at Ezeiza International Airport. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1521 GMT 17 Jun 85]

JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL CAPTURED--The Navy has released the following communique: "The Navy General Staff reports that during the afternoon of 16 June, during the course of a maritime transit control operation with the participation of the patrol boats 'Zobral' and 'Gurruchaga' and naval planes, the vessel 'Sujki Maru 51,' flying the Japanese flag, was discovered fishing within the economic exclusion zone, 180 miles east of Puerto Deseado. Due to said fishing activity, the patrol boat 'Gurruchaga' was dispatched to visit and inspect the vessel and check whether it was committing a violation. After warning shot was fired because the vessel tried to escape, the above mentioned fishing vessel was captured and it is now being brought in to Puerto Deseado, where it is expected to arrive on the afternoon of 17 June. The vessel will be taken in to custody by the national Coast Guard and River Police, which will implement the necessary measures. Due to the operations carried out by the naval units, other foreign fishing vessels were observed fishing at the limit of the economic exclusion zone." This communique was released at 1750 [2050 GMT] by the Libertad building, the seat of the Navy staff. [Text] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2130 GMT 17 Jun 85]

SOUTH KOREAN FISHING SHIP SEIZED--Buenos Aires, 19 Jun (TELAM)--The "Gurruchaga" Navy patrol boat today captured the "Dae Wang" fishing vessel

from South Korea which was fishing illegally within the economic exclusion zone. This was reported today by the Navy Staff which said that the operation took place yesterday night near the zone where the Japanese fishing ship "Sujki Mary 51" was captured on 17 June during an operation of maritime traffic control by Navy ships and airplanes. A warning shot had to be fired when the ship tried to escape and then it stopped its engines permitting the "Gurruchaga" Navy personnel to board and capture it. The "Dae Wang" was escorted to Puerto Deseado where it was put at the disposition of the Argentine Naval authorities. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1750 GMT 19 Jun 85]

FISHING VESSELS ADMIT ERROR--Bahia Blanca, 25 Jun (TELAM)--The captains of the two foreign fishing ships that have been captured while fishing illegally in Argentine jurisdictional waters have admitted that they were in fact fishing illegally when captured. This has been revealed in Puerto Deseado by sources closely related to the investigations being carried out by the Argentine naval prefecture, according to today's issue of NUEVA PROVINCIA. Both Masao Sekikaua, commander of the Japanese ship Sujki Maru, and Cha Jung Rae, captain of the South Korean ship Wang 12, which were fishing within the 200 miles of Argentine jurisdictional waters, have admitted in their statements that they were in fact violating Argentine waters and have confirmed this in the appropriate records, it has been learned. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1238 GMT 25 Jun 85]

CSO: 3348/770

BRAZIL

15 NEW PARTIES SEEK LEGALIZATION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jun 85 p 6

[Text] Although the Superior Electoral Court [TSE] has postponed ruling on the provisional registrations until Amendment No 25/85 is regulated, the new parties continue to submit their requests for registration to the electoral court; by last Friday, 15 parties had requested legal status. Three of these parties--the Liberal Front Party, the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB] and the Communist Party of Brazil [PC do B]--have representatives in the National Congress.

The list of petitioners includes the most varied labels and programs, from the radical Left, such as the PC do B, to a Nationalist Party which is openly to the Right, according to its program. The last request received by the TSE was that of the Agrarian Socialist Party and the Workers Renewal Party (PSA and PRT), late Friday afternoon.

The Party of the Brazilian People (PPB), whose registration was requested by Antonio dos Santos Pedreira and whose reporter is Minister Jose Neri da Silva, advocates party freedom through a multiparty system and its goal is a parliamentarist system of government. It advocates agrarian reform without demagoguery. It does not tolerate large unproductive estates.

The Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) requested registration through Giocondo Gerbasí Alves Dias, its secretary general, and its reporter is Minister Oscar Dias Correa, of the former UDN (National Democratic Union). The party advocates the unrestricted right to religious freedom and freedom of the press. According to its program, social measures will be legitimate and effective only if the population affected is involved both in the drafting and the execution of the programs. The PCB also thinks the government should give priority to investments in activities which enlarge the labor market.

The Socialist Labor Party (PST), whose president is Commander Dalmo Honaiser, advocates strengthening the democratic institutions, establishing social democracy and combating the seat of illicit wealth. It supports small and medium business. Its position on agrarian reform: progressive taxation of unproductive landholdings.

The Nationalist Democratic Party (PND), whose president is Raymundo Bento Aguiar, advocates in its program the full exercise of democracy as the only form of

government which obeys the concept that all power derives from the people and is exercised in their name. The party's goal is to strengthen the National Congress and the plural party system.

The Communist Party of Brazil (PC do B) is requesting reinstatement, arguing that it has already been a legal party. It went underground in 1947. Joao Amazonas de Souza Pedroso, its secretary general, declares that the party has been in existence since 1922 and that he is the only member who has remained in the group since it was declared illegal by the Electoral Court.

In its program statement, the PC do B avers that it is guided by the "universal values of the social science founded by Marx and Engles." Its objective is the installation of socialism in Brazil. According to the party program, this new regime, "the result of the struggle against oppression and exploitation, will promote freedom and justice. It will be founded on Brazil's specific circumstances, taking into account its historical background, its struggle traditions, its social structure and the progressive cultural, national and moral aspects of Brazilian life."

The Nationalist Party (PN), represented by Nemo Canabarro, simply requested registration of its party status, in order to insure possession of the PN title. In the brief program statement attached to the request, the party advocates the independence of the nation and of its citizens. It also wants the elimination of the foreign debt and the nationalization of foreign companies.

The Humanist Party (PH) is directed by Waldomiro dos Santos Filho and its program advocates the preservation of the democratic, representative, republican and federal regime. Another aspect of its program is the elimination of tariff barriers and of military armament. It opposes any violation of human rights. Its reporter is Minister Neri da Silveira.

The National Mobilization Party (PMN), whose registration was requested by Celso Brant, former minister of education in the Juscelino administration, advocates the eradication of illiteracy and a call to all the nations to establish a new international financial system which will arrive at a form of payment for the currently existing debts. The party advocates agrarian reform.

The Liberal Front Party (PFL) has the largest representation in the congress. Its registration was requested by Senator Jorge Bornhausen, its national president, and by Deputy Saulo Queiroz, its secretary general. The party states that its method of political action presupposes continuing mobilization and broad discussion, to insure its legitimacy and to encourage creative initiative. Its principles: to defend democracy and to struggle to establish full democracy; the free expression of religious beliefs and political convictions; and repudiation of totalitarianism and authoritarianism. Its position on agrarian reform: the instruments to carry it out should be the tax policy and the standards set forth in the Land Statute.

The Social Christian Party (PSC) is directed by Vitor Jorge Abdala Nossais; it recently submitted a petition of protest to the TSE against the PCB, claiming that communist leader Salomao Malina had stated in the first open meeting of

the party, in the Chamber of Deputies, that his group had to make concessions to Article 52 of the constitution. Noasels says that Malina made it very clear when he said that this article of the constitution establishes principles in which the party does not believe, specifically party plurality.

In addition to these petitions, others are being held in the TSE awaiting the regulation of Amendment 25 to be submitted to a ruling; among these petitions are those of the Christian Democratic Party, the Brazilian Socialist Party and the Brazilian Progressive Party.

6362

CSO: 3342/202

BRAZIL

AGRARIAN REFORM BILL SPARKS HARSH REACTIONS, UNREST

Farm Associations Troubled

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jun 85 p 12

[Text] "The implementation of agrarian reform along the lines proposed in the government bill will provoke a violent conflagration in the countryside, with unforeseeable consequences," Flavio Brito, president of the National Confederation of Agriculture, warned yesterday, adding that all the rural entrepreneurs are quite concerned "and even tense" about the prospect of social upheaval. He said he did not personally know of any case of a businessman arming himself, "but when the workers and squatters take up arms, no one rushes to denounce them."

Accompanied by other confederation directors, Flavio Brito met recently with President Jose Sarney and asked that the period in which sectors interested in agrarian reform may present their suggestions on the bill be extended from 30 to 90 days. The chief of state considered the request valid and promised to take it up with Nelson Ribeiro, minister of development and agrarian reform. "No one can evaluate such a controversial bill in a single month," Brito said. He favors agrarian reform, but not on the bases proposed by the government; he does feel that reform should apply to large, unproductive land holdings.

Flavio Brito observed that the Land Statute was distorted in several items of the official agrarian reform bill and criticized the idea of starting the reform process in areas of conflict: "If this is the case, anyone can create a dispute in a particular area of interest to him." He said that, in cases of dispute, the bill favors the workers, to the detriment of the interests of the proprietors. The confederation president challenged Minister Nelson Ribeiro and the Pastoral Land Council of the CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops] to a debate on the effects of the agrarian reform bill.

Pointing to the state as the largest landowner in the country, Brito declared that agrarian reform should start with government land and that he had told President Sarney this. The president replied that the official bill is not intended to create problems, but to democratize land ownership and promote social justice in the countryside. Brito also said the Church was among the largest landowners in Brazil, specifically citing the region of Tefe, in Amazonas, "where the best lands belong to the church and they are unproductive." In his opinion, large estates can be highly productive; he gave the example of the Itamarati

plantation, devoted to soybeans. However, he ended by noting that, simply in terms of size, "anything over 1,000 hectares is a large estate."

Deputy Jose Carlos Fonseca, member of the National Confederation of Agriculture, pointed out that the Chamber would not be able to debate the agrarian reform bill in 30 days. He said that, in several states, the rural producers are beginning to lose interest in new farm investments, and that this could lead to the destabilization of food production, mainly in Mato Grosso, to supply Espirito Santo.

Federation Asks: 'Do They Want Destabilization?'

Paulo Carneiro, president of the FAEP [Parana Federation of Agriculture], said yesterday in Curitiba that, "in its speeches, the government is going back on many items provided in the plan for agrarian reform." He does not, however, see this retreat as a victory for the critics of the government bill. According to Carneiro, "the inconsistencies between the plan and the speeches are only creating confusion in rural areas." So he asks: "Is the purpose of all this to destabilize the productive sector?"

Despite these doubts, the representatives of the more than 150 rural business associations in Parana, meeting in a FAEP assembly, concluded that the government's agrarian reform bill "was drafted at the technical level, without any practical knowledge." They determined to defend their right to participate in the drafting of another bill. "Agrarian reform is necessary and will come about sooner or later, but it should be conducted by someone who understands the matter," Renato Fontana, president of the Umuarama Farm Association, told the meeting, to much applause. He maintained that "it is necessary and urgent that the men who are the agricultural producers participate in the drafting (of the plan), so that the social conflicts will not spread so far that they can no longer be settled."

According to Fontana, these conflicts can be blamed on the economic policy: "The big problem is that the farm worker with no land was once a farm worker with his own land, and it was not by his own doing that he lost it." However, he does not believe that, to solve the problem, the government needs to "anesthetize and operate on the entire social organism of agriculture, which is producing and which is insuring that the nation's economy remains active."

The president of the Umuarama Rural Association advocated an immediate definition of the basic concepts in the agrarian reform bill: what constitutes social conflict and unproductive areas. A clarification of these concepts, he argued, would dispel "the fear which exists today, because the bill as it stands now will disrupt production, not because of its objective, but because of the fear which it instills."

At the same meeting, the producers said that one measure to ease minds would be to release the INCRA [National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement] census, which is detailed to the level of municipio. However, everyone had doubts about the census data. FAEP advisors commented that drawing up a new list would take at least 90 days. Only then would it be possible to determine which areas are actually unproductive.

Jose Paulo Cavalcanti Filho, secretary general of the Ministry of Justice, denied that the government was thinking of establishing a rural land court, but he admitted that Minister Lyra might draft a specific law regarding rural land ownership, if the conflicts worsened. He said the present property law already calls for specific treatment for the rural area, with reference to rural land-sharing and usucaption. "However, these provisions are not adequate to settle the land disputes," he said, admitting that the judicial system is not functioning well in rural areas because of a shortage of judges and an inadequate legal framework.

"Agrarian jurisprudence would be the attempt to produce legal systems that could contribute to the speedy solution of these conflicts," Cavalcanti said, noting the need to move promptly on rural issues that are channeled to the Justice Ministry.

[Real estate] brokers and farm owners have warned that the National Agrarian Reform Plan has already caused a decline in land values almost everywhere in the country. In northern regions and in Mato Grosso do Sul and Goias, they report that land values have already been cut in half. A simple farm, of 8,000 hectares, in northern Mato Grosso, which was valued at 700 million cruzeros before the plan was announced, is now valued at less than 300 million cruzeiros. No one is interested in buying land, they say.

At the same time, investments have fallen off because, according to the farmers, "no one wants to put a gold ring on a pig's finger."

The peaceful rural atmosphere which the government would like to see is a long way off; in southern Para, the state's major livestock region, the farm owners are already considering the creation of a rural patrol to prevent the invasion of their lands, while others are arming themselves "to the teeth," as they themselves report, organizing squads of farm hands prepared to take violent action against undesired occupations.

The decision to create a rural patrol was reported by Fausto Ribeiro Marques, president of the South Para Rural Producers' Association, to Vice Governor Laercio Franco. Ribeiro Marques claimed that the invasions were increasingly numerous and were already hampering the production system in this region, where the largest and most important farms are located. Ribeiro said the invader, unlike a homesteader, is not interested in producing anything, but in making an immediate profit by stealing lumber or occupying land to resell to third parties.

He warned that even more violent clashes lay ahead. Hence, he said, it is important to create a rural patrol, similar to what has existed for many years on the island of Marajo. This system, supported by legislation which has been in existence for almost a century, works as follows: the governor names a rural sheriff and the landowners arm themselves and maintain a militia, which has the power of a paragovernment organization. In Marajo, this patrol operates with 20 men and is aimed more at combating cattle rustlers.

22 July 1985

Senate Debate

Half of yesterday's senate session was devoted to debate of the government's agrarian reform plan, with remarks from almost everyone who attended the session. Most of the speakers thought the announcement of the plan was "premature." Senator Saldanha Derzi (PMDB-RS [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul]), like other legislators, said that land redistribution is less important than assistance to the grower, providing him with tractors, irrigation and credit.

Senator Joao Lobo (PFL-PI [Liberal Front Party-Piaui]) declared that it is too soon to introduce agrarian reform; the country has more pressing problems, such as combating inflation. Senator Alberto Silva (PMDB-Parana) and Odacyr Soares (PDS-RO [Social Democratic Party-Rondonia]) protested the 30-day period set by the government for the debate on agrarian reform.

Also critical, Antonio Ernesto Salvo, president of the Minas Gerais Federation of Agriculture, declared yesterday in Belo Horizonte that the government means to effect its agrarian reform program, "using some such expedient as the expiration of the period [for debate]." In Vitoria, Espirito Santo's agricultural leaders yesterday condemned the "collectivization of property" and declared that "we cannot support agrarian reform unless there is an agricultural policy for the country."

Conflict Already Aroused

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Jun 85 p 12

[Text] Agrarian reform claimed its first victim yesterday: Edmundo Galtino, city councilman of Araguaiana and linked with Federal Deputy Aldo Avantes, of the PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil], was shot to death as he was leaving the Municipal Chamber building. Meanwhile, tension rose in regions of conflict, especially in 15 Goias cities, and farm owners in southern Para were already preparing to create a rural patrol to prevent the invasion of their land.

Edmundo Galtino was ambushed by a gunman; he managed to escape the first bullet by crouching down, but took other shots in the stomach and lungs. Seriously wounded, he was flown in a state government plane to Goiania, where he underwent emergency surgery, but finally succumbed to his injuries. According to Paulo Isidora, Araguaiana's chief of police, there is no doubt that the attack was related to land problems. "The government is effecting agrarian reform, but apparently they don't want to wait for it," said the police chief; he confirmed that the situation was getting worse in neighboring municipios, such as Tocantins and Araguatins.

Justice Minister Fernando Lyra acknowledged the existence of foci of tension and admitted the possibility that the conflicts would become more serious, but he ruled out any intervention by the Federal Police, noting that the state governors had been informed of the government's express desire to promote peaceful agrarian reform, guaranteeing the principles of private property.

In the Guapore Valley as well, in Alto Sorocabana, the farm owners defend the use of arms to protect their land from the invaders. Francisco Telles, who owns property in this region, said the invaders had already murdered three of his farm hands, setting them on fire with diesel oil. He said the invaders fire at them from the jungle and have managed to steal 600 head of cattle from his herd, pressuring him to abandon his land. "There I am, with my 7.65mm pistol, facing gangs of gunmen"; he suggested that other farm owners arm themselves.

In Brasilia, Geraldo Andrade de Carvalho, president of the Business Association of Amazonia, defended the right to private property, declaring that if the owners of land in the Xingu region, which was expropriated by the government and reintegrated in the Xingu Reservation, are not indemnified by next month, they will use physical force to defend their right of ownership.

Luis Carlos Silva Lima, president of the Xingu Farm Owners' Association, went with Geraldo Andre de Carvalho to discuss the matter with Interior Minister Ronaldo Costa Couto. Silva Lima criticized the government's agrarian reform program, calling it "dangerous" and warning that "one government has already fallen because it attempted to attack the basic principle of respect for private property."

In Porto Alegre, rural entrepreneurs were alarmed at statements by Nelson Ribeiro, minister of development and agrarian reform, that the program would be initiated in areas where there is social unrest. They have called a meeting today with representatives of the 100 associations of FARSUL [Rio Grande do Sul State Agricultural Federation].

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, government leader in the Congress, warned yesterday in Brasilia that President Jose Sarney is firm in his determination to carry out the agrarian reform program, and will not tolerate any invasion of land, private or otherwise.

The four northeastern governors, Jose Agripino Maia (Rio Grande do Norte), Gonzaga Mota (Ceara) Hugo Napoleao (Piaui) and Wilson Braga (Paraiba), who attended a dinner yesterday in the Jaburu Palace, conveyed to President Sarney the disquiet which the announcement of the agrarian reform plan has caused in their states.

Protest March Includes PMDB Mayor

Sao Paulo State Agency--"Agrarian reform, with this farm policy, is demagogery." This definition, which might be attributed to some opposition politician, was actually voiced by Helio Carlos Alexandre, PMDB mayor of the small Sao Paulo municipio of Nova Independencia, in the Andradina region near the Parana River. Helio Alexandre is one of a group of farmers who take a strong stand against the plan of Jose Gomes da Silva. Monday, they will meet with Agriculture Minister Pedro Simon to discuss the following request: "A farm policy that begins by protecting the small rural landowner, eliminating, for example, the monetary correction for debts incurred for bank credit."

This is a caravan of farmers from the Andradina region, which was organized 7 months ago and has taken on the nature of a campaign in support of small and medium rural entrepreneurs, particularly now when the government is presenting its agrarian reform program.

There is a specific organization in opposition to this plan and, to date, 300 farmers have confirmed that they will go to Brasilia. Among them is Helio Carlos Alexandre, mayor of Nova Independencia, aged 35, elected by the PMDB. "I am a small rural producer; I have worked my entire life growing corn, cotton, rice, crotalaria and mangoes. Today, I am bankrupt, like almost all the farmers who will accompany us on the march. We cannot even raise any money because, if we have anything to sell or dispose of, the potential buyers are in the same boat as we are. If the government asks me if agrarian reform should be implemented, I will say yes, but first of all it would be a good idea to take a good look at the situation of the small farmers before adding to the number of petitioners who, like us, could be returning to Brasilia a few months after they have received their land."

In the Andradina region, the corn and cotton producers have been obliged to see private financing to make up for the shortage of government funding. The money which the Bank of Brazil liberated for growing expenses only covered the cost of plowing and grading the land. The farmers contracted debts with private lending institutions to purchase fertilizer, seed and insecticides. Some raised loans 200 percent as large as those they obtained from the Bank of Brazil. With the cumulative interest and the monetary correction, the debts have increased 242 percent in the last 10 months. Meanwhile, the corn and cotton harvests are coming to an end and the farmers have not found a buyer for their products. The government is the only interested buyer and is also the most sought-after, because it pays the best price on the market. But there is a problem: the CEAGESP [Sao Paulo State Trading and General Warehousing Company] warehouses are all full. There are 40-truck lines which have been waiting 7 days to unload in Andradina. Yesterday the CEAGESP leased another private storage shed, but it is not large enough to handle about 20 percent of the harvest, which is being lost in the fields. Even with the price floor, the farmers are not managing to pay off their debts. The mayor of Nova Independencia said that, in the last few days, which he spent organizing the caravan, he has listened to some dramatic accounts. "I am in despair," he said, "but I met a farmer who is disillusioned with life itself. It would be no exaggeration to tell the agriculture minister that there are small producers who are considering suicide."

The farmers in the Andradina region will hold another meeting at 1400 hours tomorrow in the Municipal Chamber, to take care of the final details of their petition. The two basic items are : extension of the period for repayment of the bank debt, and an immediate farm policy on behalf of the small rural producer, either through subsidies or the elimination of the monetary correction.

Garcia: 'Order will Be Maintained'

Minas Gerais Governor Helio Garcia said yesterday in Belo Horizonte that the Brazilian farm owners need not arm themselves to defend their land against possible invasions. He observed that, in the agrarian reform program announced by Jose Sarney, "the government will carry out the law and maintain order."

He emphasized, however, that the authorities and the public must have a dialogue and reach an understanding, because, otherwise, we will not go anywhere.

Visiting Sao Paulo, Parana Governor Jose Richa said at the Bandeirantes Palace that the critics of the agrarian reform bill are prejudiced and that the issue is being sensationalized, which ends by fostering panic in the countryside. In a meeting with Franco Montoro, Richa argued that the measure is intended "to unite the local efforts to regularize landownership, efforts which are now scattered among the separate states."

According to Senator Alvaro Dias (PMDB-Parana), the terms under which the reform is to be effected clearly indicate the government's intention to conduct it in phases, taking every precaution to avoid confrontations in the expropriation of lands. According to Sao Paulo Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the government is not disposed to have its agrarian reform bill disfigured, nor to have its image tarnished because of the bill, so he will publicly denounce the alarmist campaign which is being conducted against the initiative.

Former Minister Warns of Social Upheaval

According to former Agriculture Minister Alysson Paulinelli, "without a change in the economic policy, eliminating discrimination against agriculture, any agrarian reform program is doomed to failure; it will only create social agitation." Paulinelli defined his stand regarding the government's agrarian reform plan yesterday, a stand which he will take if he is elected president of the National Confederation of Agriculture [CNA] (he will compete for the position with current CNA president Flavio Brito, on 15 July). Paulinelli released a note observing that "no one, in principle, can be against a land reorganization aimed at making land ownership more accessible," but, to this end, he defended three basic principles:

"To avoid any type of negative publicity about agrarian reform which upsets the farmers, because the effect of this publicity on production in the years to come will be devastating, threatening the food supply and our export capacity; the program should concentrate initially on public lands, because Brazil is currently exploiting 200 million hectares and it has 500 million hectares of arable land at its disposal. It is obvious that the remaining 300 million hectares are fully available for the redistribution program; finally, large landholdings which are unproductive must be considered within the scope of the program, but with full respect for property rights, as guaranteed by the constitution and by the Land Statute," states the former minister's note.

According to Alysson Paulinelli, history has demonstrated that the financial resources for agriculture tend to be diverted to the beneficiaries of land reform, "in order to prove that the initiative was a good one and produces results. The farmers, who already have the responsibility for supplying food to the country and for guaranteeing exports, end by being further discriminated against." The note expresses concern about the possible reduction of funds for farm credit and technical assistance and also about threats to the minimum price policy.

Paulinelli believes that Brazil must put an end to the discrimination against the farmer which was created in the 1950s to finance industrialization. "That discrimination caused a decline in the farmers' purchasing power to levels which endangered the very social stability of the country." Under the present circumstances, "without adequate planning, the funding for agrarian reform will be obtained at the expense of other programs which are also important to the nation's agriculture and cannot be further reduced," the former minister said.

Meeting night before last in Presidente Prudente, the farm producers of Alta Sorocabama decided to mobilize against the government's agrarian reform bill, criticizing it for having been "drafted hastily," without hearing out the farm owners, and because it represents a threat to property rights in the country. The plan was described as an "agrarian mess," because of the confusion it is creating.

During the meeting, planter and attorney Roosevelt Roque dos Santos said: "The operation is being prepared by the organized Left;" he maintained that the government's agrarian reform bill should be vigorously combated. The participants at the meeting unanimously approved a "resolution of concern" to be conveyed personally to President Sarney. The Church, the PMDB and the Communist Party were accused of infiltrating the rural unions to incite forcible occupations of private property.

Small, medium and large rural landowners in Alto Sorocabana decided to travel in caravans to Sao Paulo on Tuesday, to promote a rally in the Anhangabau Valley. Then they will go on to Brasilia for a public demonstration protesting the government's agrarian reform program.

PMDB Politicians Also Critical

Two PMDB politicians came out yesterday against the government's agrarian reform program. One was Federal deputy Paulo Zarzur, of Sao Paulo. On arriving in Brasilia, he said: "The president of the republic has an obligation to go before the public and explain clearly what he aims to do, since the insistence of the government--or, more precisely, of Minister Nelson Ribeiro--on promoting agrarian reform has further aggravated this problem." Zarzur said he did not understand why a matter of such dimensions and gravity was approached in such a superficial way, tending more toward populism than toward a real search for a solution. As a result, and absolutely needlessly, he said, another area of friction has been created between rural management and labor.

Describing himself as a member of a family which has been tilling the land for over 100 years, Deputy Agenor Maria (PMDB-Rio Grande do Norte) said yesterday that the government's agrarian reform bill was "rascally and demagogical," to the applause of deputies Jose Arbage (PDS-AC [Social Democratic Party-Acre]) and Jose Fernandes (PDS-Amazonas). "I am not against agrarian reform," Agenor explained "but I want serious reform, along with reform of the economic and tax models."

Senator Altevir Leal (PDS-Acre) defended himself yesterday against criticism that he owned large tracts of land. He said he was proud to be a large landowner, emphasizing that all 18 of his rubber plantations were productive and provided jobs for 3,000 rubber workers. According to Altevir Leal, "it is much too soon to be talking about agrarian reform in this country."

In Belo Horizonte, Deputy Gerardo Renault (PDS-Minas Gerais), former agriculture secretary of Minas Gerais, said yesterday that "the Sarney government has demonstrated that it is totally unprepared and irresponsible in announcing its first great project: agrarian reform. According to Renault, the government approached the matter, "which is basic to the country's entire economic and social structure, in a short-sighted, inconsequential and trifling way, simply obeying its grotesque vision of a New Republic." "In the way it was presented, the reform fomented panic, because the announcement was followed by irresponsible and demagogic statements and threats of expropriations," Gerardo Renault added.

The Rio Grande do Sul PDS bench in the Federal Chamber has already initiated a broad study for a new agrarian reform bill, Deputy Hugo Mardini reported yesterday in Porto Alegre. He said the government bill had created a "climate of great unrest in the nation. "It is a radical bill which contains a multitude of errors and calls for intensive revision."

International Conspiracy

Former Deputy Cardoso de Almeida yesterday complained to President Jose Sarney of an international conspiracy to sabotage Brazil's agricultural production system, for the benefit of the tripartite bloc of rich nations: Japan, the United States and Western Europe. Cardoso de Almeida told President Sarney he was uneasy because the World Bank was willing to finance Brazil's agrarian reform program, which he considered "drastic, unconstitutional and destructive to rural property rights, " adding that the disruption of the rural productive system had already begun.

"The planting of the grain crops is already behind, the lime industries are not receiving any orders, the manufactureres of tractors and farm machinery have no buyers, farm orders are being cancelled at the last minute.

"What we cannot comprehend about this agrarian reform bill offered by the government," said the former deputy, "is the success of the U.S. policy to disrupt Brazil's agricultural production system since, because of the high costs entailed, the Americans are incapable of producing grains and foodstuffs at the same cost as those produced by Brazil and placed on the foreign market at lower prices." Cardoso de Almeida asked President Sarney to extend the period for discussion of the agrarian reform plan, considering that the associations which represent the farm owners are upset and concerned.

Mounting Protest

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Jun 86 p 10

[Text] Brasilia--One of the foremost presidential advisors told O ESTADO yesterday that President Sarney is aware that the government is acting in a "clumsy and precipitous manner" in the matter of agrarian reform. However, the advisor reiterated the president's determination to enforce the Land Statute, even if he has to call in the Armed Forces. According to the advisor, everyone in Brazil is aware that real "armies of hired ruffians" are being organized, both by the landowners and by claim jumpers and land raiders.

"It is an issue which could become a real powder keg, ready to explode at any moment by spontaneous combustion," he said.

The SNI (National Intelligence Service) has informed President Sarney of the reactions to the announced National Agrarian Reform Plan. SNI chief Gen Ivan de Souza Mendes himself, as well as the intelligence community which he directs and the military ministers, are behind the president's positions in all areas, but they do not overlook the way the process is being handled.

"You always think the SNI is rightist," General Ivan repeated. "The SNI is neither to the Right nor the Left. The SNI is an intelligence agency of the government and is always concerned with the future. It is concerned about poverty, misery, hunger, public education, health and, obviously, about the need to make the land productive, to provide jobs and better conditions for the men in the fields."

General Souza Mendes currently finds it difficult to respond when he is asked of the forces of the Right or Left represent a greater danger to the country. However, he considers the organization of these two forces to be "legal and natural" within the new Brazilian political picture. "It is desirable for both the Right and the Left to organize and, through the natural clash of opinions, to come up with the best solutions for Brazil's problems," the general said.

The SNI chief also noted that President Sarney--in his capacity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces--has all the support needed to implement the law, whether this law is the Land Statute, agrarian Reform or any other name which is applied to the redistribution of arable farm lands.

Deputy Calls Plan Unconstitutional

Porto Alegre--The government's agrarian reform bill violates the constitution and the Land Statute and hence cannot be implemented without discussion in the National Congress, it was argued yesterday in Porto Alegre by Jorge Vianna (PMDB-Bahia), chairman of the agriculture and rural policy committee of the Chamber of Deputies. Vianna thinks it is more important at this time to make the already existing rural production system workable than to effect land distribution.

According to Vianna, the bill is unconstitutional on three counts: it goes against Article 6, in suggesting that the judiciary power should be moved to fix the cost of expropriations at "compatible" prices"; it violates Paragraph 22, Article 156, in establishing that resettled farmers may not sell the land which falls to them ("This is an attack on property rights and creates an image of 20th Century serfdom," Viana observed); and it contravenes Paragraph 1, Article 160, which guarantees free enterprise in all branches of the economy.

The deputy commented that the bill goes beyond the Land Law: whereas Paragraph 1, Article 24 of that law establishes that land which is distributed by the federal union shall be privately owned, the bill presented by the government permits "communal exploitation" of the farm plots. In this context, Vianna said, "it is obvious that the project is unconstitutional and that it cannot be implemented unless the National Congress approves the necessary constitutional changes."

In any case, the deputy feels that it is impossible to limit debate to only 30 days on a bill for agrarian reform which--according to the bill itself--is to be implemented over a 15-year period. He thinks the government should extend the period for debate to at least 90 days, since the discussions would have to take into consideration the difficulties with the nation's agriculture because of the high cost of credit and the lack of a system of marketing and industrialization. According to Vianna, simply redistributing the land will in no way contribute to increasing the nation's production of foodstuffs unless the resettled farmers are also provided with adequate conditions to produce, market and process their crops.

Rural Rebellion

"The government should conduct a national education campaign on agrarian reform, to prevent the emergence of new peasant leagues in the country," Deputy Milton Reis (PMDB-Minas Gerais) warned yesterday in Belo Horizonte. According to the deputy, misinformation on the subject, circulated by the government itself, is creating a favorable climate for the emergence of these leagues, "which can destabilize legally constituted institutions, through rebellion in the countryside."

Milton Reis suggested that this education campaign should be conducted by President Jose Sarney and [not] Minister Nelson Ribeiro, to whom he attributed "great political ineptitude." Reis explained that the minister "handled the agrarian reform matter very poorly; he should have discussed it first with the farmers' associations and the farm workers' unions."

Plantation Owners Appeal Against Expropriation

The owners of the Fazenda do Bosque, mentioned as the largest property in Sao Paulo State to be expropriated under the First Agrarian Reform Plan, asked Minister Nelson Ribeiro to remove the name of the 12,080-hectare plantation from the list of properties causing conflict and social tension and hence subject to expropriation.

The petition, which was conveyed by Raquel Bessa Carvalho Diniz Pupin, Jose Carlos Pupin and Marco Antonio Diniz, was severely critical of the material published in a Brasilia newspaper, which gave front-page prominence to the land assessment prepared by the Ministry of Agrarian Reform, a report which included the Fazenda do Bosque.

According to the petitioners, the sensational nature of the published report could cause serious problems for the present owners of the area in question, who are already aware that the invasion of these lands is being planned. Moreover, they claim that the properties which constitute the Fazenda Sao Joao (or Fazenda do Bosque) are not areas of conflict and that there are no squatters in the region, but only duly registered employees.

The proprietors also reminded the minister that "alarmist reports" could create difficulties for the landowners with the financial institutions with which they arrange credit, since a large part of the area--about 1,000 acres--is devoted to crops and the rest to livestock.

To "correct mistakes in handling the matter," the landowners also presented some clarifications to Minister Nelson Ribeiro regarding the property in question. According to the document, the Fazenda do Bosque, listed by the National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement (INCRA) as the Fazenda Sao Joao, once comprised 12,060.70 hectares, but the property was reduced to 1,721.9 hectares because land was expropriated for the Sao Paulo Power Company (CESP).

In addition, what remained of the Fazenda Sao Joao (or Fazenda do Bosque) was divided, by judicial decision, among the eight legal heirs, following an inventory of property upon the death of Mariana Garvalho Diniz and Jose Carvalho Diniz, the owners of the estate. The legal document regarding the amicable distribution was signed on 8 November 1983.

Agriculture Confederation Sees PC Involvement

Brasilia--Representatives of agricultural federations throughout the country, meeting in Brasilia, reject the government's agrarian reform bill; they want to extend the period fixed by the Ministry of Agrarian Reform and Development for debate of the bill from 30 to 90 days. During the meeting, Flavio Brito, president of the National Confederation of Agriculture, reported that landowners throughout the country are beginning to form private militias to prevent their property from being invaded by farmers. "I am concerned about the radicalization of the debate regarding the agrarian reform announced by the government," he said, "because violence begets violence on both sides." The CNA president added that the presidents of the federations are more directly critical of Jose Gomes da Silva, president of INCRA, who has selected individuals linked to leftist movements to serve in the regional organs of the institute.

This accusation was repeated by Neilson da Silva, representative of the Alagoas Sugar Industry Association. "The government's agrarian reform bill," he told the federation presidents, "appears to have been drafted by the Brazilian Communist Party. In a little less than 1 month, we sugar cane producers, once celebrated in prose and poetry, are now seen as veritable monsters because of this biased document." He urged the National Confederation of Agriculture to take a firm stand in defense of the rural landowners and he issued a warning:

"I think this meeting should make it clear that the confederation is not opposed to agrarian reform, but if they attempt to invade our crop lands, the government will have to deal with the consequences, because no one is going to hand over on a silver platter what has been earned with the sweat of many generations." Neilson advocated an agrarian reform program with the following orientation: first, it would seek to reactivate already existing resettlement programs, which have almost been abandoned; second, it would settle people on public lands; and third, it would expropriate land now held by the Church, which he called the "largest landowner in the country." The government should not move to expropriate unproductive estates until all these resources are exhausted.

Fabio Mierelles, president of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Agriculture [FAESP], called attention to the importance of the role of the rural entrepreneurs at this moment, declaring that if this class does not attempt to enter into the debate of the agrarian reform program, as has happened in the past, it will end by receiving all the blame for the implementation of an unsuitable policy. "We are in a position to talk things out with the rural workers and even with unreasonable men," he declared, "but, with the government project, they are trying to create a clash between the image of the landowner and the

rural worker, as if we were the [perpetrators] of the errors made in the Brazilian economic process."

At the meeting, Meirelles presented the document drafted by the FAESP regarding agrarian reform, reiterating that, if a policy like that of Mirad is implemented, the least harm it could create would be a conflict of interests and the greatest would be "the disorganization of those who have been responsible for Brazilian agriculture for all these years and have provided real benefits for a class of rural workers installed in the Central-South of the country."

Ivo Tadeu Bianchini, president of the Santa Caterina Federation of Agriculture, argued the need for a longer period for implementation of the agrarian reform program. He said its announcement had "created expectations among the landless workers that they would immediately have access to land, a fact that has already encouraged invasions of land. The bill is seeking to create a general feeling in the country that the rural business class is reactionary and hence will not accept an agrarian reform program, which is not so; we simply cannot accept having it approved so hastily. If we do not expose the untruths contained in the bill, it will certainly lead to unacceptable beliefs in the countryside."

In his remarks at yesterday's meeting, Ari Faria Marimon, president of the Rio Grande do Sul Federation of Agriculture, stressed that priority should be given to a democratic agrarian reform, declaring that he would like to call the attention of the drafters of the PNRA (National Agrarian Reform Plan) to the country's economic system, which was developed as and remains a liberal regime, based on the capitalist system. He noted that political groups had infiltrated the movements of the landless rural workers, claiming that their membership is beginning to turn up professionals "in the service of political demagogues who know nothing about rural life but are simply using the movement to foment unrest, which will make it impossible for the country to increase food production."

The loudest criticism at the meeting in Brasilia was directed at INCRA president Jose Gomes da Silva. "The group is making it clear in this meeting that it does not trust the current INCRA president, particularly because he is assigning important positions to people who do not share the principles defended by the business class." FEASP president Fabio Meirelles said that, by chance, he had sat next to Gomes da Silva on the trip from Sao Paulo to Brasilia. Meirelles told the entrepreneurs that the INCRA president resented the positions they have taken, attempting to give a communist connotation to the Mirad project. Meirelles said he did not understand what the INCRA president had in mind when he declared that, by their conduct, the businessmen were helping to install communism in the country.

The Marxist connotations of the bill were brought up by several federation presidents at the meeting, such as the president of the Goias federation [FAEG]. In the memorandum which he submitted, it is noted that the plan takes "at times, an aggressive, emotional and factional tone, with a strong Marxist flavor."

The message implicit in the plan is thus," he stressed, "the class struggle and collectivization. Here and there the bill recommends the establishment of real people's courts. Then it recommends that workers' organizations take

charge of the program and the selection process for assigning land to be owned jointly and collectively. The FAEG emphasizes that the plan has created a distorted image of the rural worker, always the victim, the social outcast, and this is not consistent with the prevailing reality. "Under the admitted inspiration of the National Confederation of Farm Workers, the plan created the unreal concept of the worker without land. Consequently, the idea was formed that every worker should have access to land, which should be communal property; the farm worker, as such, would disappear and we would simply have the communal landowner. They preached this in Russia in the early days of the communist revolution."

Mayor Warns of Imminent Battle

Belem—Itamar Mendonca, mayor of Para's Xinguara Municipio, warned yesterday that open warfare could break out any any moment between the homesteaders and hired gunmen. The problem began in May, when the local estate was invaded by the farm workers. Killings soon followed and eight bodies have been recovered. One of them, that of a woman, had been burned. The homesteaders blame gunmen hired by the estate owner.

Last Sunday in the hamlet of Rio Vermelho, a group of 25 gunmen invaded the area and drove out the settlers. A police detachment in the area of Xinguara apprehended three gunmen.

The Para Federation of Agriculture records five properties which have been invaded in the last 2 months and assures that these invasions have been supported and incited by agents of the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT). Its members are accused of calling public rallies and organizing the invasions "with the blessing of the police." Federation president Clodomir Begot said that the leaders of the invasions are a priest, two CPT agents and an agronomist.

Begot conveyed to Nelson Ribeiro, minister of agrarian reform and development, the concern of the rural entrepreneurs of Para, "because of the interpretation which has been given to the National Plan for Agrarian Reform, under the guidance of leftists and members of the CPT." He accused some ministry officials of "creating terror in the countryside, to the great detriment of agricultural production."

Producers Want Longer Discussion Period

Yesterday in Sao Paulo, after a day of meetings, the members of the Brazilian Rural Association assessed the federal government's agrarian reform bill and found it unacceptable. The rural leaders intend to ask President Jose Sarney for an extra 90-day period in which to discuss the agrarian reform program and to come up with an alternative plan, as a contribution by the productive class to a "reasonable debate" on the matter.

Represented at the meeting were 94 associations of rural landowners from all over the country. The leaders also approved a vote of confidence in President Jose Sarney, reiterating their hope that it is possible to arrive at a land proposal

which does not clash with the existing rural structure. The association also intends to ask that rural producers be appointed to the four vice presidential posts which are still vacant in the INCRA.

The rural leaders should call a congress of all the nation's producers in Brasilia at the end of this month (the date has not been confirmed), primarily to discuss agrarian reform and also the exchange policy, tax reform and the marketing of farm products. According to Flavio Teles Menezes, president of the Rural Association, agrarian reform--as it is proposed in the government bill--will "have grave repercussions, increasing tension in the countryside."

According to Menezes, the INCRA should separate "the wheat from the chaff." That is, it should properly distinguish between homesteader and invader and should also properly classify rural landowners, distinguishing them from mere claim jumpers.

The president of the Rural Association feels the present agrarian reform plan [implies] that the rural structure is a failure, proposing the collectivization of agriculture and not admitting the possible merits of the present agricultural production system.

According to Menezes, it would be more efficient to gradually distribute idle land, obligating the owner to put the land to use. Applying the standards of the Land Statute, INCRA could set the tax rates, increasing them annually until they reached as much as 14 percent of the real value of idle lands.

He also noted that the Church, through the Pastoral Land commissions, had influenced the rural social movement, within its program of preferential treatment for the poor. According to Menezes, some church sectors have begun to behave like political parties.

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BRAZIL

COMMUNISTS VIE FOR CP LABEL; SOME PREFER PMDB, PT SHELTER

PCB Claims Precedence

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Jun 85 p 6

[Text] The Brazilian communists, who split up 23 years ago, are once again having serious ideological disagreements, provoked this time by the possibility that, with the country's redemocratization and party reform, the two communist parties could be legalized. The PCB (Brazilian Communist Party) and the PC do B (Communist Party of Brazil) are reorganizing within the new rules, and this is where the problem arises: Which one will keep the hammer and sickle and the Communist Party label?

The issue certainly will only be resolved by the Superior Electoral Court. Every type of argument has already made an appearance in this battle, each side feeling it has more rights than the other. Since there has been a similar case before, that of the battle between Leonel Brizola and Ivette Vargas for the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], the communists are attempting to use the same precedent. They feel that the one who gets there first will win, as Ivette did.

Deputy Aldo Arantes, representing the PC do B, notes that its leader, Joao Amazonas, is the only survivor of the four members of the party leadership in 1945, when the PC was legalized. Of the other three members, Prestes is isolated from any faction and Mauricio Grabois and Arruda Camara are dead. In addition, Aldo Arantes says that in 1922 the Left was grouped under the name of the Communist Party of Brazil, a title which was maintained in the 1945 legalization.

Roberto Freire, federal deputy in the PCB, disagrees: the "Big Party" is older. According to Freire, Cristiano Cordeiro, one of the signers of the manifesto for the legalization of the PCB, was a member of the 1922 group, and all the communists elected to the 1946 Constituent Assembly, except for the Amazonas delegation, are still members of the PCB. He argues further that one of the occasions on which the PCB requested to be registered with the court was in 1961, thus preceding the split that gave rise to the PC do B, which took place the following year.

In the same line of thought, Freire adds that the "Big Party" has always struggled for legalization, whereas the other group has taken this position only now:

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"Our petition for legalization was submitted on 8 May 1985 and we had already petitioned President Figueiredo to legalize the PCB more than a year before that. If the ruling with regard to the PTB does not establish a precedent, at least it reveals a strong tendency in the Electoral Court to accept the theory of precedence, or of honoring the earlier request for registration."

As a final argument, Freire even recalled that, in December 1982, the police of the military regime arrested the members of the PCB Central Committee; in other words, "even the state recognized, in an unequivocal manner, the attempt to reorganize the outlawed party." Freire is not so intransigent about the hammer and sickle. "If the PC do B were to add a little star, for example, it could differentiate the two parties quite clearly."

Dissidents Prefer Other Party Labels

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Jun 85 p 5

[Text] Sao Paulo--At least six leftist groups do not intend to form a legal party and have decided to remain in semi-legality, sheltered under the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and the PT [Workers Party] labels. For example, the MR-8 (8 October Revolutionary Movement), which emerged from a split in the PCB at the end of the 1960s, will register as a civil body and will continue to operate as a group within the PMDB. The PCR (Revolutionary Communist Party), which resulted from a split in the PC do B, decided not to seek legal status, and to use the PT and PDT [Democratic Workers Party] labels for election purposes.

Despite this choice, these two groups and four other Trotskyite groups which will remain in the PT (the Socialist Convergence; the Fourth International Splinter Group, which edits the journal O TRABALHO; the group which puts out the newspaper EM TEMPO; and the Organization of the Fourth International, which published the newspaper CAUSA OPERARIA) all look favorably on the process of legalization of the PCB and the PC do B, which have already presented petitions for registration to the Superior Electoral Court and are organizing to meet the requirements of the electoral and party legislation.

The Proletarian Democracy, which is also under the shelter of the PT label, is the result of the fusion of the MEP (Movement for Emancipation of the Proletariat) with a wing of the old AP (Popular Action) and the Red Wing, a splinter from the PC do B. The other wing of the AP joined the PC do B, and sectors of the MEP went over to the PCR. There is also a fifth Trotskyite group, which is being dismantled because of the death of the Argentine Posadas, its ideologue.

Claudio Campos, secretary general of the MR-8, justified his group's decision to register as a civil body and to remain in the PMDB:

"We have always worked very hard at building the PMDB front, which continues to play a very important role in politics. We do not intend to abandon the PMDB, but to go on working to strengthen the broad democratic national front which is the Democratic Alliance," Campos explained.

Ozeas Duarte is a member of the Central Committee of the PCR, founded in January 1984. Duarte believes that the "question of political freedom cannot be viewed solely from the standpoint of party and electoral legalization." The PCR feels there are still many antidemocratic vestiges in the legislation and there are still no guarantees regarding the "conduct of the repressive apparatus" toward the parties on the Left.

The Socialist Convergence, which acts under the name "Socialist Youth Foundation" in student circles, does not intend to leave the PT, according to Eduardo Almeida Neto, member of its national directorate, and wants to struggle to turn the PT into a party of the masses, "a real pole of political reference for the country's workers." The group disapproves of the PT's tendency to ally with the PDT in some states.

Juarez Guimaraes, editor of EM TEMPO, feels that party freedom is still limited and he condemns the criterion of election performance as a prerequisite, as well as the existing standards for the organization and functioning of the parties.

"There should be complete freedom to reveal the society's political and ideological trends as clearly as possible," stressed Juarez, who confirmed that his group will remain with the PT.

Josimar Melo is a member of the editorial staff of the magazine O TRABALHO, published by the Fourth International Splinter Group, of the PT, whose student group is known as "Liberty and Struggle" (Libelu). Josimar reported that his group intends to stay with the PT, of which he is a member of the national directorate, because it is the "most important party of the labor class."

Costa Pimentel is a journalist with the newspaper CAUSA OPERARIA, an organ of the Organization of the Fourth International (OFI). Although he favors full and unrestricted freedom of party organization, he fears that legalization of the PCB and the PC do B is part of the present government's plan to broaden its political bases in the labor and popular movement.

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BRAZIL

REACTION TO NATO'S PROPOSAL ON JOINT MANEUVERS

PY181625 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jun 85 p 3

[Excerpts] Brasilia--The Brazilian Navy looks favorably on the possibility of participating in naval maneuvers with the navies of friendly countries like the United States that have modern technology and can help improve the Brazilian Navy's preparedness. However, the Brazilian Navy, which barely has sufficient means, must tend to other priorities, such as defending the country's coasts.

This statement was made to O GLOBO by an authorized Navy source after studying the proposal made by the NATO Commander Admiral Wesley McDonald for greater coordination among the navies of the South Atlantic countries.

The Brazilian Navy would agree to participate in joint maneuvers provided this does not mean Brazil's alignment with NATO.

CSO: 3342/201

BRAZIL

ITAMARATY DECLINES COMMENT ON NATO PROPOSAL

PY181626 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jun 85 p 3

[Text] Sources at Itamaraty have not wanted to comment on the proposal made by Admiral McDonald except to recall that joint maneuvers between our Navy and those of other countries are normal. The sources added that Brazil has never been interested in forming a military bloc outside the hemisphere.

A diplomat has said that the Brazilian Government has never supported the formation of what has been come to be known as the "Pact of the South Atlantic," the so-called South Atlantic Treaty Organization (OTAS) that had once been proposed by South Africa, Argentina, and Uruguay.

According to the diplomat, Brazil's position is based on its policy of condemnation of apartheid (racial discrimination against blacks) in South Africa, which would have participated in OTAS. Moreover, Brazil considered that the other countries interested in the pact were at the time ruled by dictatorships.

CSO: 3342/201

BRAZIL

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ON AERIAL SURVEYING

PY140150 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Jun 85 p 2

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff (EMFA) Admiral Jose Maria do Amaral told O ESTADO that "great polemics are being raised" concerning the modification of legislation on aerophotogrametry that was enacted on 31 May. With the modification, the participation of foreign firms in aerophotogrametric surveys of Brazilian territory, which was done exclusively by Brazilian companies before, is made possible by impositions of the IDB and the IRDB to liberate resources for the Northeast Project.

The change is considered contrary to the interests of national security by sectors of the National Association of Aerophotogrametry Enterprise (ANAE). The EMFA chief himself confirmed this in a paper he submitted on 15 April but, nevertheless, he endorsed the presidential decree promulgated on 31 May. However, the EMFA chief believes that the national enterprises have the capacity to win the international bids, and, contradicting his paper, he said that the national sovereignty will not be affected. In case the aerophotogrametric surveys in the nine Northeast states to be benefitted by the INCRA [National Institute of Land Reform and Settlement] Rural Development Program are awarded to foreign firms, Admiral Amaral said, the EMFA will not let them process the negatives abroad, as it was done in the 1950's and 1960's when the U.S. Air Force not only made the aerophotogrametric survey of the national territory, but took the negatives to the United States.

CSO: 3342/201

BRAZIL

EMBRAER TO PRODUCE 270 AMX PLANES BY 1987

Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 29 May 85 p 9

[Article by Sonia Racy]

[Text] This year's Le Bourget Fair (the largest aeronautics exposition in the world, which has been held every 2 years since 1909), represents a bench mark for EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], although the company has been participating regularly in this event in more recent years. EMBRAER is going to present the Brasilia, which has already received its certificate of approval, and will formally deliver the first of these planes to Atlantic South Coast Airlines, of the United States. The fair opens tomorrow and will continue until 9 July, with 33 aircraft manufacturers participating.

EMBRAER will exhibit at three pavillions: two of its own (62 square meters and 180 square meters) and the other one in conjunction with Aeritalia and Aerimacchi (80 square meters). In its own space, EMBRAER will exhibit the Tucano and the Brasilia, and in the other space it will show the AMX, the new Italian-Brazilian attack plane.

The AMX was formally presented to the Brazilian and Italian authorities last Saturday, in a flight demonstration at the Casela Airport in Turin, Italy. On the same day, two prototypes of the plane, developed jointly by Brazil and Italy, left Turin and landed at Le Bourget, France; they were taken to the facilities of EMBRAER International Aviation (a French subsidiary of the Brazilian plant), where they are being prepared for demonstrations during the exhibition.

According to EMBRAER forecasts, the three members of the consortium will produce more than 270 AMX planes by 1987, to meet orders from the air forces of the two countries. Depending on negotiations between the Italian and Brazilian governments and industries, this program could be extended to 1990 and even to the year 2000, according to official information from EMBRAER. Four other countries (not mentioned) are also interested in buying the AMX.

BRAZIL

AVIBRAS SALES JUMP TO \$130 MILLION IN 1984

New Radar, Rocket

Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 29 May 85 p 1

[Article by S. Stefani]

[Text] AVIBRAS [Brazilian Aviation Corporation], of Sao Jose dos Campos, devoted basically to the manufacture of rockets and missiles, is participating in the Aeronautics and Space Exposition of Le Bourget, in France, this year, with a 94-square meter display area--almost three times as large as the area used in 1983, the first time the firm participated in the exposition.

The increase in space is directly proportional to the growth of the company, whose sales jumped from \$30 million 2 years ago to \$130 million last year and, according to company projections, should reach between \$150 million and \$200 million this year.

About 90 percent of AVIBRAS earnings are from foreign sales, particularly to the Persian Gulf countries. According to Pedro Vial, sales director of AVIBRAS, the sharp rise in earnings is the result of a change in the profile of the products offered. "We are starting to produce much more sophisticated equipment, with greater per-unit value," he explained.

The first product of this new line was formally introduced to the international market at the French aeronautics fair in 1983. This was the Astros, a battery of six launching vehicles, for three types of rocket.

At this year's exposition, AVIBRAS will introduce the Fila, a mobile unit equipped with search and identification radar, capable of predicting the future location of targets and emitting signals for the anti-aircraft batteries.

At the next French fair, in 1987, the cycle will be complete; AVIBRAS will exhibit an entirely new line of missiles.

22 July 1985

New Phase

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 May 85 p 9

[Article by S. Stefani]

[Text] This year AVIBRAS will participate in the Aeronautics and Space Exposition of Le Bourget, in France. The AVIBRAS exhibit will take up 94 square meters--three times the area that was used by the firm in 1983, the first time it took part in this biennial show. The increase in the size of the stand is in direct proportion to the growth of the company, which has gone from earnings of \$30 million 2 years ago to \$130 million in 1984 and expects to reach between \$150 million and \$200 million this year.

AVIBRAS is moving into a new phase, characterized by the manufacture of more sophisticated products with a much higher per-unit value, according to Pedro Vial, sales director of AVIBRAS, who thinks it is reasonable for the company to take part in international expositions like Le Bourget. "Close to 90 percent of our earnings are from foreign sales," he noted.

It was not by chance that AVIBRAS participated in the French fair for the first time in the same year that the company began to take a step up. Its presence at Le Bourget in 1983 was linked to the introduction of the Astros, a battery of six launching vehicles which operate with three different types of rocket and have a range which varies from 9 km to 60 km.

This year at the French fair, AVIBRAS will exhibit the second fruit of this new phase of products with greater unit value: the Fila, a mobile unit with search and identification radar, capable of predicting the future location of targets and emitting firing signals to the cannons.

The first time that AVIBRAS participated in Le Bourget, the company generally showed its equipment for defense in ground-to-ground combat, with fixed targets. Now it is showing a product for use in ground-to-air combat with moving targets.

AVIBRAS already knows what it will be introducing at the 1987 fair: the third fruit of this new phase--an entirely new line of missiles, much more sophisticated than those which were responsible for most of its earnings before 1983.

Vial did not go into detail, claiming that, in this area of armaments, secrecy is almost always a part of the negotiations, even to the contracts, which often include secrecy clauses.

In a general way, however, Vial reported that he sees good possibilities for marketing the new line in the Gulf countries, Africa, Asia and, on a smaller scale, Latin America. "Since the Le Bourget fair is one of the most important in the world in this area, it is attended by defense officials from all these regions," he noted.

The AVIBRAS sales director feels that, this time, in addition to more space and the Fila line, the company will have another trump card at the French fair:

the fact that, with the Tucano, EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] won the contract to supply the advance military training plane for England's Royal Air Force. "Any conquest of this size helps everyone who operates in this area-- us and ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] as well," he explained.

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CSO: 3342/202

BRAZIL

STRIKES DELAY PRODUCTION OF ENGESA EE-12 JEEPS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Jun 85 p 39

[Excerpt] ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] has postponed until September the introduction of the EE-12 jeep, a vehicle for civilian or military use, developed at the request of the Brazilian Army after the Willys jeep, manufactured by Ford, was taken off the market. The EE-12 has already been shown to the public in the automobile show held at the end of last year, and its introduction was scheduled for the beginning of July. However, because of the metalworkers' strike and, now, a problem between the assemblers and the parts suppliers, the program has been set back.

Yesterday, Edson Bolognani, commercial director of ENGESA, decided to stand beside the other assemblers "in solidarity with ANFAVEA [National Association of Automotive Vehicle Manufacturers]", rejecting the demand for price readjustment by the auto parts manufacturers, although this means a delay in launching the model which signals ENGESA's entry into the production of civilian vehicles. "ENGESA will only make an exception for the armored cars produced for the Brazilian Army or for export," Bolognani added, explaining that, in these cases, the parts are purchased regardless of the prices established by the suppliers.

Regarding the EE-12, which would cost about 50 million cruzeiros today, the ENGESA commercial director explained that the firm is lacking important parts, such as axles, steering gears and many others, including electrical equipment. "Because of the metalworkers' strike, many suppliers fell behind in producing the parts," he said. He noted that ENGESA is also having difficulty replacing stocks of parts for the daily production of two tanks and four military trucks, since the auto parts industry is raising the prices (with government authorization), "but in these cases we have to accept the price hike."

Export

ENGESA plans to produce 30 EE-12 jeeps per month in the second half of this year and about 200 jeeps per month starting in 1986. Both civilian and military versions will be produced, with alcohol, gasoline and diesel engines (for the army). A foreign sales team from ENGESCO, which is ENGESA's export division, has already concluded a contract for the sale of 20 EE-12 jeeps, even before they go into production, but the name of the purchasing country was withheld (it is a Latin American country). There are also plans to demonstrate the

vehicle in African and Middle Eastern countries, considered as potential markets for the military version of the jeep. On the domestic market, the EE-12 should be competitive with the Toyota and, possibly, the Ford Belina 4 X 4, since it also has four-wheel drive. The program has been under development for more than 3 years and ENGESA has invested about \$3 million in it, according to the company's commercial director.

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CS0: 3342/202

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY TO VISIT--Brasilia--Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, will pay an official visit to Brazil from 8 to 13 July. In addition to Brasilia, the foreign dignitary will visit Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro where he will meet with Brazilian businessmen. This will be the first visit of a British minister to Brazil since the Malvinas war. The last British minister to visit Brazil was Lord Carrington who was here in 1980 and 1981 while former Brazilian Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro was recently in London on an official visit. During his stay in Brasilia, Sir Geoffrey Howe will hold talks with several Brazilian authorities, including Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has reported that the agenda has still not been drafted, but that it will mainly deal with political issues. Moreover, Uruguayan diplomatic sources have reported in Montevideo that Brazilian Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias today held a meeting in Stockholm to discuss the drafting of an agenda for the meeting that the Uruguayan and Brazilian presidents are scheduled to hold in August. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Jun 85 p 3]

NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE ENDORSED--The Brazilian Government on 18 June formally reasserted its position endorsing the independence of Namibia through the holding of free elections. Concerned over the decision made by South Africa to proclaim Namibia's "self-government" and to install a "transition government" in that country, which is being occupied by Pretoria, Itamaraty has released a communique stating that any measures contrary to UN Security Council Resolution 435, which advocates Namibia's right to independence, "are unacceptable, null and void, and merely contribute to the aggravation of the situation prevailing in southern Africa." [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jun 85 p 5]

CSO: 3342/201

COSTA RICA

CANDIDATES ON ADMINISTRATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish 6-12 Jun 85 p XII

[Text] Each week, RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO will present the opinions of the two principal candidates for the presidency of Costa Rica, who represent the democratic parties Christian Social Unity and National Liberation. Each week a question will be posed to these parties' candidates, Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier and Dr Oscar Arias Sanchez, regarding their platforms or current issues. The questions may be formulated by the magazine's reporters or by its readers. The two candidates have agreed to participate in this new project, with the understanding that if one of them does not answer the question asked at a given time, the space designated for his response will remain blank. This section will last until the general elections of February 1986.

There is uncertainty among the public about the political parties' positions on the Labor Economy Sector (SEL). What do you think of it? How do you think the benefits for workers should be administered?

Dr Oscar Arias: I view the plan's intent and objectives favorably, but not the way they are to be implemented. In fact, I think it is time to provide unemployment aid as an undeniable right, with real and immediate impact on the workers. By the same token, I think the limit of 8 months of benefits, set forth in Article 29 of the Labor Code, should be varied, although exceeding this limit can only be done by taking the country's economic and social situation into account.

The plan appears to be well-intentioned as far as the establishment of a legacy for workers is concerned, but the way this laudable objective is supposed to be put into practice does not make it feasible.

In the first place, as I have mentioned before, I agree that the workers should administer the unemployment insurance funds through their organizations (labor/management associations, cooperatives, unions, etc.), as long as controls are established to guarantee the protection of their interests.

In the second place, with reference to the resources of non-organized workers, the new version of the plan tries to solve the problem of creating more bureaucratic institutions, but in my opinion, it actually aggravates this tendency by establishing five unemployment commissions in each of the banks of

the nationalized system, in addition to a general assembly without a clearly defined relationship to these commissions.

Finally, I think that two extremely important factors should be considered in the discussion of the plan. The first is the ability of businesses to make the disbursement over a relatively short period of time. Given credit restrictions and the liquidity problems that plague the productive sector, I think it would be a good idea to spread out the employers' contributions over a period of 8 years. For the same reasons, this transition stage is indispensable for the public sector if the financing of the outlays entailed in the SEL is to be compatible with the stabilization program and the need to avoid higher inflationary pressures.

Rafael Angel Calderon: Of course there is uncertainty about the SEL, not because of the position of our party, which has always openly rejected this initiative, but because of the inconsistency of the administration. In 3 years it has sent the Legislative Assembly a number of bills that differed in form, but were identical in content. All, moreover, were equally damaging to the national economy.

The Christian Social Unity Party has always agreed that the 8-year [as published] limit for unemployment benefits should be extended, but it has also repeatedly objected to the creation of new bureaucratic institutions to administer the funds. These funds belong exclusively to wage-earners, and we have contended that the workers themselves should manage their resources in the way that best suits their interests.

With specific reference to the latest bill submitted to Congress, I would like to state the following:

1. It does not clearly establish where the government will obtain the funds it needs to meet its obligations as an employer, in terms of the 8.33 percent payment. This percentage, calculated on the basis of current wages, means an additional government outlay of more than 1.7 billion colons. This will inevitably translate into new taxes, issuances of unbacked currency, higher rates for public services, or deterioration of the services the government should provide for its citizens.
2. Furthermore, during a severe crisis such as the one the country is undergoing at present, I think it is inappropriate to raise the social benefits payroll taxes by such a high percentage.
3. During a period of real inflation, not the fictitious stability portrayed by the misleading statistics released by the National Liberation administration, this plan does not say how the workers' money, deposited in the SEL, will maintain its true buying power and its real value.
4. The only innovation in the latest SEL plan submitted to Parliament is that it divides among the state banks the old bureaucracy that was supposed to be formed with the so-called Unemployment Fund, by creating Administrative Boards

to manage the workers' money. This would involve confrontations with these banks' boards of directors over authority and responsibility.

In sum, I repeat that I am against any further payroll taxes and the creation of bureaucratic monsters to administer funds which, because of their origin, are the exclusive domain of the workers and therefore should be administered by them alone.

8926

CSO: 3248/418

COSTA RICA

PVP EXPLAINS OBJECTIONS TO NEW 'ANTI-TERRORIST' LAW

San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish 31 May-6 Jun 85 p 5

[Text] Last Monday the Legislative Assembly approved several measures to reform the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, in the first round of debate. The reform package is known as the "anti-terrorist" law. On that occasion, only Vanguard Deputies Freddy Menendez and Arnolfo Ferreto voted against the package.

As was noted during the debate, discussion of the bill began during the plenary session in October of last year, arising out of clearly politically-motivated proposals designed to impose penalties on so-called terrorist practices or deeds. Direct mention was made of the activities of leftist groups.

The bill in question met with serious objections, so it was sent to the Court for review. Several months later, legislative debate began on the Judiciary's proposal. As Deputy Ferreto showed in his explanation of the Vanguard faction's position, the new proposal contains norms and considerations that clearly violate the freedoms and rights of the people.

First of all, as the Communist deputy explained, the proposal at issue contains a very dangerous article. Specifically, he cited Article 272 of the bill: "Any person who takes part in an association of two or more persons for the purpose of committing crimes shall be subject to a prison term of 2 to 6 years merely for being a member of said association. The penalty shall be from 3 to 10 years in prison if the purpose of the association is to carry out acts of terrorism."

Ferreto indicated that according to this text, any judge who is an enemy of leftist organizations can put the leaders or members of revolutionary organizations in jail on the mere presumption that the organization they belong to has been created for terrorist purposes.

On this point, the Communist deputy's position was supported by the trumped-up charges of "illegal association" against the so-called "La Familia" group and the false accusations against its members, which resulted in prison terms of several years for most of them after the most scandalous trial in recent years.

The same fate befell the comrades of the Argentine Carmelo Sbezzi, who without having committed any crime in this country were sent to prison for several years. Subsequently, in another kangaroo court, they were convicted of "illegal association" and of belonging to an international terrorist organization; again, no proof was presented. All this happened without any express legislation aimed at punishing what can subjectively be considered "terrorism."

Against this backdrop, the Vanguard faction voted against the bill, primarily because of the wording of Article 272.

Moreover, it was felt that the proposed legislation was incomplete, because not only did it focus on this kind of action, which could include any popular protest, but nowhere did it deal with the matter of punishing or curbing violence by government officials.

In this regard, Deputy Ferreto recounted the most recent repressive actions by the Public Forces, in which striking workers and peasants struggling for land lost their lives. He also emphasized that more and more people are being victimized in police actions, often involving officers in security corps that do not require uniforms. Nonetheless, in no case have judicial authorities intervened to punish those who ignore individual liberties.

During the first debate, the Liberation and Unity delegations, as well as Deputies Rodriguez Solorzano, Malavassi Vargas, Montero Mejia, Valverde Rodriguez and Ardon Ramirez, voted in favor of the bill.

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CUBA

HAVANA PLANNING REGIONAL LABOR UNION CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN DEBT

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 21, 24 May 85 p 56

[Article by Tomas Diaz]

[Text] On 1 May the secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC), Roberto Veiga, spoke in the Plaza de la Revolucion—as our readers will recall—and brought up the idea of holding a regional labor union meeting without regard for ideology or politics, for the purpose of discussing the regional indebtedness problem. A few days later, the 4th Conference of Labor Unity and Solidarity of the Caribbean Workers was held on the 10th and 11th of this month in the capital of Guadeloupe, Pointe-a-Pitre. There it was unanimously agreed, as expressed in the final declaration, "to support and work for a wide-ranging Latin American and Caribbean labor union conference in Havana on the foreign debt," to be held sometime in 1985.

In exclusive statements to BOHEMIA, Jesus Escandel, the CTC secretary of international relations who led the Cuban delegation to Guadeloupe, indicated that "the success of this conference will depend on how many representatives are sent to Havana." He explained that the Cuban labor organization, having received a mandate to prepare for the meeting, "will work to ensure that all factions of existing labor movements are represented." He emphasized that "Havana's doors will be open to any group of workers who want to come to the conference to discuss the problem of the unpayable foreign debt, putting aside any political, philosophical or ideological differences."

"We want to be very frank, very open. It is known that the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, within this region, belongs to the Permanent Congress of Labor Unity of the Workers of Latin America (CEPUSTAL); nevertheless, we will work tirelessly and devotedly to ensure that trade unions belonging to other groups also participate in the conference," explained Escandel.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, two other major trade union associations operate: the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT), social democratic; and the Latin American Central Organization of Workers (CLAT), Christian democratic. Outside these entities, there are also numerous labor unions and independent and autonomous organizations that the CTC hopes and expects will attend the Havana conference.

Escandel stated his conviction that more factors unite the workers of Latin America and the Caribbean than divide them, and one of the most unifying elements is the foreign debt. "It doesn't matter whether someone is a communist, a social democrat, or a Christian democrat," he said.

When asked about the CTC leadership's opinion of the mandate to organize this meeting, he responded that "this could be a way for the CTC to contribute to unity of action by the unions representing the workers of the Americas in general."

Speaking on behalf of the CTC, Escandel asked BOHEMIA to convey a heartfelt invitation to the organizations affiliated with CLAT, ORIT, CEPUSTAL and independent trade unions to send representatives to the conference. He announced that the CTC will begin direct contacts with the regional headquarters of these organizations in the coming days and weeks to extend a direct and formal invitation to come to Havana and discuss the problems of the foreign debt here.

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CUBA

LT COLONEL LAUDED FOR SERVICE IN ANGOLA

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 23 May 85 pp 8-9

[Specially-boxed item in large print: "Our Heroes' Legacy - The Order of Valor and Modesty" by Miguel Febles Hernandez]

[Text] During his years of service in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Lt Col Fidencio Gonzalez Peraza has always tried to set an example for his comrades in carrying out to the utmost each of the tasks assigned to him. The comrades who knew him during the first years of the triumph of the Revolution, and afterwards when he participated in four people's harvests, "cutting cane with his rifle strapped to his back," or in the Border Brigade where in 1964 he received his papers as a Party member, or simply in the units where he served so meritoriously, can attest to his modesty and forthrightness, his exemplary discipline and his upright character.

He was able to maintain these virtues when his honorable sense of internationalist duty led him to brother countries thousands of kilometers from his beloved Fatherland.

On two occasions the Angolan people were blessed with the modest contributions of this self-sacrificing combatant.

From his most recent stint in the Peoples Republic of Angola he returned with an Antonio Maceo Medal of Valor, the first Cuban to have received this decoration. It was one of many medals and distinctions he had won.

With a lofty spirit of struggle and of victory, as well as strong abilities, Lt Col Fidencio Gonzalez Peraza managed to lead the tenacious resistance of a group of Cuban defenders, united with the combatants of a FAPLA unit against the onslaught of counterrevolutionary forces that were several times stronger and supported by artillery and mortars. The enemy made a futile attempt to take the enclave of Cangamba, a remote area at the eastern end of Angola.

For 9 days and nights, the Cuban internationalist combatants and Angolan soldiers had to endure a siege and successive attacks by the UNITA group. These actions were preceded by dozens of artillery barrages whose sole objective was to destroy the morale of the brave combatants. The enemy did not know that the greater their aggression, the more determined each man was

not to give an inch of ground and to die before surrendering or allowing himself to be trapped by the betrayers of the Angolan people.

One thing that helped the men most during those difficult times was the work done in the fortifications as the enemy pounded them harder and harder. On the eve of the attack the men managed to get all their equipment, weaponry and supplies underground. All movement was done in well-fortified trenches.

Even during the most complicated and difficult moments, when the area they were defending was reduced to the size of a football field, when food and water ran short and the enemy came as close as 20 meters from the trenches in some directions, the revolutionary combatants did not lose their spirit of struggle and victory.

In Cangamba, Cuban and Angolan unity in defense of the sacred rights of our brother country shone once again.

Lt Col Fidencio Gonzalez Peraza, the Cuban internationalist combatants, and the soldiers and officers of the FAPLA who defended themselves there, all proved this.

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CUBA

LOW ENTHUSIASM FOR MTT EXERCISES ATTRIBUTED TO TRAINING FOUL-UPS

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 23 May 85 pp 26-28

[Article by Cesar Gomez Chacon; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] "For us, the people's time is more important than money; it is time the people voluntarily devote to these activities, their infinite support for the Revolution, and therefore, it deserves the most absolute respect." Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz (Sancti Spiritus, 1 May 1985).

Once again, the city of Havana dressed in its militia clothes to hold its Defense Day. As on previous occasions, the Territorial Troops Militia (MTT) units called up their members for classes and training. Throughout the day, VERDE OLIVO reporters toured several municipalities of the capital and saw first hand how our militias' training is going.

In many places they found good work, excellent initiatives. In others, not all went smoothly; as the MTT units mobilized their troops, they came up against a disturbing adversary: /wasted time./ The causes are varied, as we illustrate below:

Transportation Problems Foil Target Practice

From the early hours of the morning, men and women, some young and some not so young, some dressed in the blue-green uniform and /some not,/ could be seen moving toward the various meeting points of their respective units, located in parks and small squares throughout the city.

Young militiawoman Vivian Castilla Mesa had to get up very early to make her assignment at 0645 hours. In addition, she had a moral commitment to herself because the previous Saturday she had also been called up, and due to problems with her job she was unable to come. Anyway, she thought she would make up for lost time, because she was told that the class she had missed was to prepare for the target practice that was to take place this Sunday. She was excited, because she has always liked marksmanship, and she was determined not to miss a single shot . . .

But Vivian and her other comrades in the 101st Regiment of the MTT that we saw at 0815 hours at the Mariana Grajales Park in Vedado had no idea that the transportation that had been arranged for them by headquarters a month earlier was at that very moment en route from some campground.

Everyone, including us, found out about this through Lt Bernardo Tome Boncugnan, a battalion chief in that same regiment. As luck would have it, he was there to help organize a demonstration class for his militia members. Thanks to his efforts, Vivian and her comrades did not waste their morning, because they immediately joined the class. The quality of the class was certainly very high. No comments are necessary about this event.

Adriana On Guard

Another young militiawoman, Adriana Rodriguez del Valle, was also one of the first to arrive at her meeting place, the Carlos J. Finlay Park in downtown Havana. This Defense Sunday she had been mobilized to participate in a tactics class. Adriana had to wait over an hour until her battalion had enough people to go to the Jose Maria Perez Volunteer Sports Council (CVD), where instruction was to take place. But, . . .

At 1000 hours her comrades were taking an interesting class in defending the city. The teacher had gone to great lengths to present the lesson to the students as pleasantly as possible. His easy and clear explanations, based on ample materials, made it obvious that he knew the subject inside out. It was really worth the trouble getting up a little earlier that Sunday, but . . .

Our young militiawoman was never able to participate in the class. Her superiors decided to leave her on guard duty along with another comrade at the entrance to the CVD, with orders "not to let anyone pass." At that hour there were already a great number of people playing ball and other sports there, which was totally normal for a Sunday, especially in a place that was designed primarily for that purpose. It is also unnecessary to make further comments on that "order" . . .

Why Is Enthusiasm "Killed"?

In the area surrounding the Latinoamericano Stadium, we had seen members of the militia from early on. Now, after 1030 hours, we toured the area again and saw how classes were being given to the various companies scattered around at different points. We approached one, which was being given in a small park.

One glance was enough to tell us that all was not well here. Although it was a class in tactics, similar to the one we saw at the CVD, there was a big difference between the two:

The teacher, an elderly militiaman, tried without much success to present an annotated reading of the Militiaman's Manual, the only teaching aid he used. Those who were paying attention strained to hear his soft-voiced explanations; the rest of the group, spread out on the benches of the little park, gave the impression of "being there while not being there."

What was going on here? Why was the enthusiasm that has always characterized our militias being "killed"? What good is a class that does not meet quality standards, is not very interesting and is obviously poorly prepared?

Let us look at the opinions we heard at the headquarters of the 2nd Battalion of the 133rd Regiment, to which this company belongs:

"We have studied this problem on several occasions; the problem lies not with the teacher, but with how late we were given the subject matter and how little time there was to prepare. We learned the subject of this class, for example, just 6 days ahead of time. It should be noted that our militia members are workers, and they have other responsibilities.

"It is also true that we are experiencing problems with our material resources. We know that the country does not have all the necessary resources, but if we could just get something . . ." (2nd Lt Daniel Garcia Hernandez, battalion chief).

Key

"All military personnel, particularly at battalion headquarters, are concerned about improving the quality of instruction. Nevertheless, I can tell you that this class, which was scheduled to take 8 hours (yesterday and today), actually does not have the necessary content or study materials to maintain the students' interest and activity for all that time. I think that 4 hours would have been more than sufficient/" (Militiaman Alejandro Aguilar, secretary of the PCC Committee)

We interrupt the comments of this comrade. There is something very interesting here that we had already heard in other comments:

Why keep our militia members for 8 hours in a class that only has enough preparation to last 4 hours? What justification is there for wasting the time our people voluntarily devote to learning?

We think that if 8 hours of instruction is called for, then it should be prepared in such a way that not a single minute is free of activity, so that our men and women can spend a truly productive day and learn useful things about defense.

The theoretical should be related to the practical; the militia members should be trained in the field, as established; poor teaching habits should be eradicated, abandoning rhetoric and paperwork. Then perhaps not 8 hours or even 16 hours of class would be enough, and the militia members would return to their homes more satisfied that they had utilized their time well. But this requires hard work, guarantees, demands . . .

Let us return to the opinions of Alejandro Aguilar, which were seconded by his comrades. Here is the key:

"If we had more time to prepare the classes, with our own initiatives we could solve many of the material problems; among the militia members we have

carpenters, painters and other comrades who can work on this, and above all, we are very anxious to learn and to prepare well for defense. We do need some material assistance, though, because we cannot provide everything."

We spent quite a while among the militia members in this battalion, long enough to participate in the second part of the class: practice. This portion was of a higher quality, because as always, the militia members' enthusiasm made up for any deficiencies.

Thus, we saw them advance on orders from their chief and occupy their positions in defense of a vast area of buildings. We can attest that not a single roof, balcony or corner of the neighborhood was left unprotected, and if there had been a real war, the enemy would have had a hard time taking over that area.

We cannot fail to mention, however, the poor impression we had upon seeing the militia members "holding" imaginary rifles in their hands, because not even wooden dummies could be obtained for the class. Once again, no comment is necessary.

These are our impressions of the last Defense Day. Throughout our observations, many questions remain unanswered. We think that all those involved in one way or another in the organization and execution of the classes and training sessions for our brave Territorial Troop Militias should be the first to analyze these questions. They are the ones who have the answers in their hands. Most of the problems are subjective, so the waste of time must be eliminated. Positive experiences abound.

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CUBA

C.R. RODRIGUEZ ON ROOTS OF FASCISM, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

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[Article by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party: "The 40th Anniversary of the Defeat of Fascism"]

[Text] The 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism will not only give the peoples of the world the opportunity to pay homage to the principals in the heroic struggle that charted mankind's course for many long years, but will also encourage them to reflect on that historic effort and learn its main lessons.

The world has not forgotten the millions of men and women who lost their lives in the effort to prevent the consolidation of fascism, to halt what seemed like its unstoppable advance later on and, finally, to inflict final defeat on it.

We shall first recall those who initially in Mussolini's Italy and later in Hitler's Germany not only raised their voices at the birth of those regressive forces but who risked jail and death to combat them by mustering their own forces to prevent the sinister program outlined in "Mein Kampf" from being implemented. Tens of thousands of Italian and German antifascists sacrificed themselves in that outgunned resistance. We shall try to ascertain to what extent the political mistakes of those other forces (mainly communists, socialists and social democrats) enabled Mussolini and Hitler successively to build up the political and military might that enabled Hitler to threaten the world with a thousand years of Nazi domination. No one questions, however, the courage with which workers and intellectuals in Italy and Germany tried to stave off the totalitarian juggernaut. Communists enjoyed a place of honor among the thousands of men and women who perished in the concentration camps and in jails. The finest representatives of the communist ideology in the two countries, Gramsci and Thaelman, symbolized that firmness with their unwavering stand and with their deaths.

On this 40th anniversary we will also honor the men and women from all countries who gave their lives in the battle against Nazism. They include, of course, those who fought in Spain against the military rebellion to which the Spanish Republic succumbed and which became, with the support of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, Franco's version of Nazi-Fascism. We will render homage to the Spaniards (communists, socialists, liberals) who defended the republic and continued their battle in exile for years and to the thousands of internationalists from all countries (including more than 1,000 Cubans, led by the noble Pablo de la Torriente Brau) who marched into Spain to make their militant contribution to what they regarded as the "cause of progressive, advanced mankind."

Nor will we forget the French Maquis, or the British who fought at Dunkirk and withstood the bombings of London with calm resolve, or the peoples of Central Europe and the Balkans, whence fascism began to spread across Europe after the shameful, treasonous sell-out at Munich. Their heroes are ours as well, and they include the legendary Tito, who with the peoples of Yugoslavia showed the world in heroic confrontations that it could stand up to the "steel helmets."

This review will also touch on the contributions of the United States military, which after the shock of Pearl Harbor* made unforgettable contributions on the islands of the Pacific and along the Second Front lines. Nor will we overlook the contributions of the American workers and specialists who provided the victors in 1945 with essential equipment.

But as we remember the end to that bleak period 40 years ago, when on 8 May the Reichswehr and its commanders surrendered unconditionally after Hitler and his cynical, raving spokesman Goebbels, shamed by their defeat, committed suicide, the world's peoples must render their greatest homage, of course, to the people and to the army without whose contributions victory would have been impossible and the Panzer divisions could well have rolled to every corner of the globe. I am talking about the people of the Soviet Union and the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union, the offshoot and continuation of the Red Army that arose with the October Revolution.

We shall not attempt here to describe or to gauge the magnitude of their feat. Twenty million men and women succumbed before the Soviet Union succeeded in halting the force that had seemed invincible, before which the armies of Europe had been powerless and in the face of which the Maginot Line had been ineffective. Without Moscow's resistance, the heroic defense of Leningrad, the incomparable exploits at Stalingrad and the extraordinary response of Soviet ground and air forces, the victory of 40 years ago would not have been possible.

*On 7 December 1941, the Japanese Air Force, without a prior declaration of war, attacked the U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, inflicting heavy casualties and damage. This triggered U.S. entry into the war.

During this epic war, under the guidance of the Bolveshik Communist Party and pursuing the scorched earth policy that Stalin, on behalf of the Soviet leadership, ordered to counter Hitler's onrushing troops, the peoples of the Soviet Union, united in a single purpose and identifying deeply with the socialism they were defending, coordinated the efforts of the military front, of the guerrilla detachments and of the underground forces in which children and the elderly joined with the combatants, thus mustering the total strength of the Soviet citizenry around that momentous determination to overcome.

The triumph over Nazism was, thus, also a demonstration of the invincibility of socialism, a lesson of which we should remind those who are now endeavoring to forget it.

Therefore, during these days of commemoration, as we feel proud to share the Marxist-Leninist ideology that enabled Russian and Soviet patriots to recover from early setbacks and partial defeats and to eventually carry the hammer and sickle to the Reichstag, we bow with respect and affection to those leaders of the Bolshevik Communist Party of the Soviet Union, those leaders of the Soviet State, the personnel of its army, navy and air force and the masses of partisans and resisters who gave the world the most wonderful example of sacrifice, not only in the form of millions of lives but also the destruction of what constituted, during the first 22 years of Soviet government, the foundations of the new socialist society that so splendidly demonstrated its invincible strength.

The Nature of Fascism

During the time that fascism appeared to be a certain victor and later, over the 40 years since its defeat, a wide range of contradictory theories have been put forth about its origins and nature. As far back as the Seventh Congress of the Communist International, Georgi Dimitrov, "the Bulgarian antifascist hero whose courage and daring, together with worldwide solidarity, enabled him to escape the plot that Hitler, Goebbels and Goering had concocted more against international communism than against his person," reviewed many of the interpretations that some are still trying to advance today.

There are those who portray Nazism as a predatory offshoot of socialism, citing Mussolini's socialist roots and Hitler's cynical entitling of his movement National Socialism. We need only look at Mussolini's and then Hitler's brutal repression of the working class, in fact the finest of the German and Italian working class, to realize how feeble this argument is.

Other interpretations are supported by facts, however. Some, for example, underscore the hysterical contribution of the German middle class first to Hitler's victory at the polls and then to Nazism's political consolidation. They portray this as the result of a "middle

class rebellion" both against the ruling bourgeoisie and its advancing proletariat. Fascism unquestionably took advantage of the instability and indecisiveness of the petty bourgeoisie. Hitler's supporters exploited the German people's prolonged economic woes stemming from their defeat in the First World War and later from the worldwide Great Depression, to mobilize this indecisive segment of society, which could be led by desperation to extreme violence. They were able to bring the German middle class into the onrushing fascist mainstream. But no effort of sociological imagination can assign a decisive role to the middle class in the establishment and direction of Nazism.

Several other reasons have been given for the rise and political strength of German National Socialism. It has been argued, for example, that German nationalism was the decisive factor that moved the German people to rise up in hatred against the allied governments, which under the humiliating Treaty of Versailles had impoverished Germany by imposing heavy war reparations, stripping it of its colonies and removing Alsace-Lorraine and major sections of the Ruhr from German control.

It is undoubtedly true that German nationalism, which had been a threatening presence in Europe since before 1870, was heightened, we might even say "provoked," by the humiliating and oppressive conditions that the victors imposed on Germany in the Versailles Peace Treaty. More than a few people warned at that time of the danger of according such unquestionably brutal treatment to the aggressive but defeated Germany of 1914. Hitler and his minions were able to rely on this suppressed nationalism as an underlying force in the rise of Nazism as a political movement and in consolidating its dictatorial power. Playing on nationalist sentiments with clever propaganda, the fascists led the German people towards revanchist positions. But nationalism alone was not sufficient either to create the political and military force that made Hitler, his Wehrmacht and his Gestapo a threat to the world.

In examining the roots and the essence of National Socialism, we must not forget the nature of classes in contemporary society and the class elements that helped make Nazism so dangerous a force.

It is true that with its political leaders dead, its unions crushed and thousands of its finest communist and social democratic combatants in jail, part of the German working class, dominated and "renewed" by an influx of young people who lacked the longstanding traditions of struggle, was among the wrought-up masses that celebrated Hitler's victories. It has also been shown, with a wealth of arguments and numbers, that part of the German industrial bourgeoisie and its business groups saw fascism as a vehicle for advancing themselves and joined the Nazi structure. In his analysis of the real nature of fascism, Dimitrov recalled that the 12th Executive Committee of the Communist

International defined it as the "brazen terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinist and most imperialist elements of financial capitalism."

A mounting ideological effort is being put forth to absolve German capitalism and, in particular, its major financial forces of the blame for the rise, victory and peril of Nazism. We will not engage in this debate here. We note only that the Communist International and Dimitrov were not talking exclusively or even mainly about finance capital at large, just about its most aggressive and reactionary elements. But there is something else that must be looked into. Nazism would never have been able to arise and grow strong had there not been a general crisis of capitalism that influenced the ideology and methods of action of the industrial and financial bourgeoisie not only in Germany but in other countries as well. All analysts agree that big German capital, which had its reservations about the Weimar Republic, felt mounting fear and hostility as the social democratic reform failed, thus highlighting the need for and "danger" of more sweeping social change as the German proletariat developed a greater class consciousness.

Moreover, while German socialists were useless to the Nazis and the communists were intolerable, the Right in pre-Hitler Germany did not inspire all the necessary confidence in them either. The fall of Chancellor Brüning (1930-1932) was due to the furious opposition of big capital. They counted on Von Papen and his conservative Center Party, but Von Papen was merely a precursor and potential ally of Nazism, which he ultimately joined, thus helping to undermine and destroy the unstable democracy in post-World War One Germany. It is not surprising, then, that steel magnates like Kirdorf and Thyssen and the former president of the German Central Bank, Hjalmar Schacht, were involved in paving the way for Hitler's victory and in supporting him afterwards. But the major industrialists, with whose backing and encouragement Hitler charted his imperial designs, were not alone in supporting fascism almost until the day of its defeat. We must not forget the slogan of the wealthy, class-conscious French bourgeoisie ("Better Hitler than the Popular Front"), or the treason of Pierre Laval, or the collaborationism of decisive sectors of France's financial and industrial economy.

Furthermore, we cannot fail to attribute Chamberlain's policy of appeasement to his plan, which more than a few European leaders supported, of using Hitler as an instrument of the Right to inflict a military defeat on the up-and-coming socialism in the young Soviet Union. And we will encounter similar approaches if we look closely at the behavior of the less developed, less entrenched but no less conservative bourgeoisies in Czechoslovakia and Austria.

Nor can we ignore the complicity of the major capitalist consortiums throughout the world during the fascist period. It is a fact that German capitalists gave their British or American partners, who were

their apparent enemies, their share of joint profits. Likewise, the big Japanese consortiums returned the share that their Yankee conquerors were owed.

This does not mean that fascism is moribund capitalism's sole solution to its historic crisis. There are others, and it is experimenting with them. For now, however, 40 years after the people's victory over Hitler's Reich, we must not forget that although circumstantial and local factors were at work in its origin and development, the major factor was the reactionary class consciousness, the potential danger of which we must always be alert to.

Fascism and the Unity of the Working Class

As we commemorate and review the world's struggle against fascism, the international proletariat will unquestionably underscore the lesson of its own mistakes at that time.

After fascism crushed the most important combative cells of the German working class, neutralized the resistance of the proletariat and secured the support it needed from a desperate and confused segment of German workers, German communists and social democrats had the unfortunate privilege of sharing the same dungeons, dying in the same concentration camps and suffering the same abuse and torture. And yet, shortly before, these same men and women, who began uniting against fascism only during those years of unavoidable cooperation, had fought each other in the streets of Berlin and Hamburg, in factories and at ports, until the very moment of the fascist victory, as if the most important thing for each force was to destroy the other. It was largely this division, more than a division, this internecine struggle of the working class, that enabled Hitler not only to oppress the German people but also to overrun the rest of Europe and threaten the entire world.

We cannot overlook the ruinous part that German social democracy played in these blunders. Under the leadership of reformists and following the paths charted by Kautsky, the Social Democratic Party of Germany prevented the German working class from making a historic leap to power in the early postwar period, just when it had the chance and showed a willingness to do so. But this was not all. Owing to their anticommunism, the Social Democrats blocked an understanding among worker forces within unions and in politics. The coalition between Social Democracy and the bourgeoisie prevailed in the period prior to Hitler's victory and contributed to it.

We must admit, however, that German communists and, in general, the international communist movement in the form of the Communist International, were also somewhat to blame for preventing or, at least, making less likely the unity of the worker masses and, consequently, coordination among all the forces capable of defending bourgeois democracy from Hitler's onslaught.

When we review the documents of that period, we realize that it took too long for the international communist movement and for German communists to grasp the danger looming before their eyes that the inadequate bourgeois democracy was likely to be replaced by a more brutal form of bourgeois domination, fascism.

Because of their struggle against the intrinsic falsehood of bourgeois democracy and against the capitalist governments' curtailment of the rights of the working class, the peasants and the people at large, since they denounced "bourgeois democracy" as a delusion and defended socialist democracy as "a thousand times more democratic than the most democratic of bourgeois democracies," as Lenin had said, the combatants for the communist cause were unable to see that implacable Nazi-Fascism was threatening to destroy this admittedly limited, inadequate democracy within which, however, they could still defend their union rights, publish a workers press, vote for their own candidates, denounce the war and reactionary measures in the streets and prepare for the decisive battles.

At the same time as Lenin had guided the Russian proletariat along the political road that enabled him to demonstrate the profoundly democratic nature of worker government and to show the workers in a practical manner why they had to move against the flawed and thinly veiled dictatorship of the bourgeoisie mistakenly called bourgeois democracy, he also never failed to call to the workers' attention the importance to them of the limited bourgeois democracy as compared with more authoritarian and repressive regimes that were less dependent on the will of the masses. He had shown, as far back as before the Russian Revolution of 1905, that a bourgeois republic was the best starting point for organizing and expanding the struggle for socialism. The communist leaders of Europe and throughout the world should have consistently applied Leninism and, from the onset of the fascist peril, underscored the urgency of taking the necessary steps to unite all forces in the struggle against it and in defense of the selfsame bourgeois democracy that the proletariat had always systematically combated.

Until 1935, when fascism had already become a force that the German people were unlikely to defeat alone, there were two reasons why communists failed to see the clear need for this policy. The first was the imminence of war, the danger to which communists all over the world and, in particular, Soviet leaders attached overriding importance. The visible preparations of a capitalist war against the Soviet Union, which Hitler's Nazi Germany ultimately launched, represented the main concern at the time. Secondly, the negative, reactionary stands of Social Democracy, its virtual abandonment of the class struggle and its growing collaboration with the bourgeoisie prevented communist leaders from understanding for a decisive stretch of time that they should concentrate not on constantly and aggressively denouncing Social Democracy but on altering and guiding the Social Democratic policy towards the indispensable unity of the worker forces.

It was left to the Seventh Congress of the Communist International to chart a specific course in that direction, with Dimitrov's historic words.

As late as 1928, at the Sixth Congress of the Communist International, fascism was not regarded as an immediate threat. Very little importance was attached to fascism, as a war against socialism drew ever closer.

In contrast, the denunciation of Social Democracy as a negative element in the world labor movement was accorded high priority. In summarizing the debate on the program of the Communist International that was passed by the Sixth Congress, the then secretary general of the International explained in detail why such emphasis had been placed on the struggle against Social Democracy.

He said: "It has evolved both in policy and in theory. A great change has taken place within its ranks. After having begun by betraying socialism in 1914, Social Democracy has gone so low in its treason that we feel we have to expose this process more or less in detail."

We must acknowledge, if we seek to learn all of history's lessons, that communists made more than a few mistakes in taking Social Democracy to task for its obviously reactionary and divisive policy. The papers submitted to the congress said, for example: "The ideology of class collaboration (Social Democracy's official ideology) has many points in common with fascism. The methods that fascism employs in its struggle against the revolutionary movement are present in embryonic form in the activities of many Social Democratic parties and of the reformist union bureaucracy."

It is not surprising, then, that the Communist International zeroed in on Social Democracy in the manifesto that the congress approved and that also called on the masses to unite against war and, carrying on the finest traditions of socialism, to turn the approaching imperialist war into a civil war in which "it will be necessary to turn the heavy field guns around and aim their shells at the head of the imperialists." "Social Democracy," the manifesto reads, "has become the main force for destruction among the workers in the industrialized countries and the working masses in the colonial countries." The manifesto predicted that the social traitors, as the Social Democrats were called, "will join the ranks of the bourgeoisie and battle the soldiers of the proletarian revolution" when the call to war sounds.

Alongside this strong denunciation, the terse mention of the danger of "fascist terror," the document's only reference to what in a few short years would dominate the world scene, sounds feeble and far wide of the mark.

The Seventh Congress of the Communist International has such tremendous historic importance because it completely altered the course of the

struggle. Criticizing the previous policy and rectifying it thoroughly, Dimitrov laid the groundwork for unity among the worker and socialist forces and underscored the necessary cooperation between European social democrats and socialists and the communist movement that was heroically confronting fascism.

Thenceforth, the communists, represented by Dimitrov as secretary of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, worked enthusiastically and without respite to carry forward the policy of the single popular front against fascism that the congress had approved and that French communists had wisely anticipated and to a considerable degree implemented. Now is not the time for recriminations; it is time to learn the lessons that history has to teach. Inevitably, however, we note that then too the appeals of the communist movement fell on deaf ears, as social democracy failed to respond to the calls for unity. Yet, as we have said, Social Democrats and communists did, in fact, unite in jails and concentration camps, as well as in the trenches, where they battled Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union and other European nations.

Anticommunism, vestiges of which still prevail today in major factions of European Social Democracy, was unfortunately too strong 40 years ago, when unity among the proletariat and peoples that it could have headed and guided could have organized Europe on foundations that were more forward-looking and more consistent with the interests of its peoples. We are now seeing an increase in the number and importance of the Social Democratic parties in Europe that advocate a policy of broader unity, joint action with communists and efforts to prevent anti-Sovietism from leading to fresh mistakes. Nevertheless, Europe today still faces a real danger of nuclear confrontation, largely because the aforementioned socialist factions within the European proletariat have not been overcome and U.S. imperialism, relying on rightwing parties but also on pacts with Social Democratic governments such as Helmut Schmidt's, has begun deploying 572 ballistic missiles on European soil.

The bitter experience of 40 years ago has had positive aftereffects, however. Communist and Social Democratic forces do not disagree as strongly now in their analyses of major world problems such as peace or the specific situations in Central America and Namibia. As our party has said, European Social Democracy, in spite of all its limitations in approach and objectives, has been playing a positive role in Latin America's problems, more than once strongly opposing the designs and policies of imperialism and at times openly confronting it.

For our part, we communists have continued implementing and broadening the policy of the Seventh Congress, even though the Communist International no longer exists as a joint center for organization and action. To a varying extent but with a common approach, communists

all over the world are striving to involve the masses to an increasing extent in the struggle for peace and to broaden its political and social base. Likewise, we are continuing our efforts to put together a broad coalition of all forces that desire peace to oppose Mr Reagan's aggressive, reactionary policies in Central America and the brutally neocolonial policies of South Africa towards Namibia and the Frontline nations (policies that have had Mr Reagan's unqualified support). We have learned from the mistakes of the past.

The price that mankind paid for the lack of unity to halt fascism was tens of millions of lives and mass destruction. The most immediate danger facing us today is that the world will fail to retake the path of negotiation and detente and that confrontation will lead to a nuclear holocaust. As we take on this great struggle, we must not forget the tragic disunity among the proletariat and progressive forces that enabled Hitler to further his insane ambitions.

The Experiences of the Second World War

Fascism was defeated 40 years by a worldwide alliance in which the Soviet Union played the decisive role. But as we celebrate victory, we must not refer solely to the costly outcome that, as we have said, determined mankind's subsequent course. At the same time, we must examine the entire preceding period. As we confirm the class nature of international politics, this period will show us how Hitler's Germany became a devastating power that cost the world millions of lives to defeat, once the Nazis and their henchmen had destroyed much of Europe and the boots of their arrogant armies and the sinister figure of their Gestapo had marched through the capitals of mainland Europe.

Some of mankind's art treasures disappeared forever; cities of great historic value lay in ruins, and millions of victims perished amid their rubble. These enormous losses make us appreciate the value of peace that much more. Above all, however, as we look back, we must realize that class factors dictate world politics, so that we can guide the struggle for a peaceful world with a clear understanding of its difficulties and with a precise idea of what its fundamental thrust ought to be.

If "capitalism carries war within itself as the cloud carries water" (an oft-quoted remark by the eminent French socialist Jean Jaures), then fascism heightens this warlike bent since it is an extreme expression of the most negative segments of capitalism in its imperialist phase. At the outset of Hitler's government, he still spoke to the world deceitfully of the need for peace and even put forth proposals that were designed to conceal the true nature of his foreign policy. But we need only read "Mein Kampf" and recall the ideas of racial domination advanced by Rosenberg, one of Hitler's favorite ideologues,

to realize that the Hitlerite policy of war was true to the very nature of ill-termed National Socialism and of any version of fascism in fact. The Nazis believed in the brutal supremacy of the Aryan race and in its purported right to dominate all other "inferior races" in a bid to create the superman that the philosopher Nietzsche had argued for some decades before. They were not just trying to undo the restrictions that the Versailles Peace Treaty imposed on the German nation. Much more was involved. As we know, the theory of the "vital space" created a voracious appetite for eastward and westward territorial expansion, as the Nazis dreamed of going far beyond the European continent and, thanks to the Japanese-German alliance, made their initial incursions into Asia. On this 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism, we must also commemorate the defeat of the Japan's militarism, which though different from fascism joined in a sinister alliance with Germany and Italy in a bid to realize their goal of hegemony and crush the resisting peoples.

All of this was just a possibility, a potential danger, when Hitler took power. Forty years after the bitter experience of the Second World War, we must ask ourselves: Could the catastrophe have been avoided. Could Hitler have been stopped before it was too late?

The answer is to be found in a thorough analysis of European politics in the years before Hitler up to the inglorious Pact of Munich and the eventual invasion of Poland.

That entire period was characterized by the efforts of European capitalist leaders to isolate and defeat the Soviet Union. In spite of the initial difficulties involved in building socialism, the Soviet Union was making steady progress at the time in overcoming its backwardness. While the Great Depression showed that capitalism was vulnerable and in retreat (its final crisis seemed imminent, in fact), the Soviet Union was making steady headway. Suffice it to mention that in 1932 the Soviet Union took in 54 percent of the entire world's machinery exports and that in 1929-1930 some 70 percent of England's machinery exports were bound for the Soviet Union. In 1930, the USSR was the number two and in 1931 the number one buyer of U.S. plant and equipment exports. The leaders of the imperialist system became obsessed with defeating the Soviet Union and preventing socialism from moving forward while capitalism seemed to be crumbling. They did not hesitate to take any measure. To the detriment of their own economic interests and ignoring the judgment of important businessmen in their own countries, European leaders and the Hoover administration practically organized an economic blockade of the Soviet Union, eliminated all of the clauses favoring it in treaties and erected tariff barriers. In short, they took the approach that Reagan was to imitate 40 years later.

But the economy was not the only battleground. The oft-admitted goal of the foreign policy of the major European capitalist countries during this period was to divert Hitler's territorial ambitions "eastward."

The strategy of the most reactionary elements of capitalism embodied the hope that the clash between Hitler's armies and the Soviet military would physically eliminate socialism and weaken Nazi Germany, which would then enable them to defeat this new and dangerous competitor or reach advantageous compromises with it.

If we take a close look at everything that happened on the European political scene during the 10 years prior to World War II, the debates in the League of Nations and at the Disarmament Conference, the difficult negotiations that led to the short-lived Mutual Assistance Pact between France and the Soviet Union and to the comparable Czech-Soviet pact, we can clearly see how the Soviet Union made intensive, systematic and conciliatory efforts to hammer out an agreement that would balance the political and military situation in Europe and check Hitler's designs by keeping him within the framework of international law and forcing him to negotiate with France, Great Britain and other European countries. In contrast, there was a widening split within the ruling classes, between a minority that grasped the demands of the time before it was too late and understood the need to put aside their hatred for socialism and build an alliance to contain the terrible Hitlerite threat, and the more aggressive forces of capitalism that gradually became dominant and eventually sold out to Hitler in the hope that he would "save the world from the threat of communism."

Far-sighted French politicians such as Louis Barthou were murdered, while the advocates of capitulation like Pierre Laval took office opportunely to engage in their infamous sell-out. We must realize that the willingness of certain capitalists, whether conservatives like Churchill or socialists like Lord Beaverbrook, to negotiate with the Soviet Union did not stem, of course, from pro-Soviet leanings but from a clear, albeit classist understanding of what capitalism's real and permanent interests were. Churchill was a staunch enemy of the Soviet Union. He had helped organize the 14 international armies that battled the emerging socialist state early on, and no sooner had the Second World War ended than he delivered his fateful speech at Fulton (United States), recommencing the anti-Soviet crusade that is still going on. At that time, however, Churchill conveyed to Soviet negotiators his appreciation for the "intelligent, moderate, mistake-free policy" of the Soviet Union and its realism and practical spirit: "Please don't think that I'm very fond of you. No, I love Great Britain. But precisely because I love Great Britain and not you, I feel that British interests now demand a rapprochement with the Soviet Union."

But clear thinking does not always prevail over blind class consciousness, over longstanding enmity. For this reason, owing to France's reticence, the Franco-Soviet Mutual Assistance Pact was not the instrument it could have been in countering the threat that Hitler posed. For this reason too, Czechoslovakia was sacrificed, thus spurring on the victorious Nazi drive, and the Spanish republic, the historic defense of which

foreshadowed the marvelous struggle of nations against fascism, was forsaken by the weak-willed Leon Blum and the socialist leaders of the Popular Front, who closed the French-Spanish border to all outside democratic aid. Thus, on 29 September 1938 at the Munich Conference, the representative of France's bourgeois democracy, Daladier, and Neville Chamberlain, the spokesman of British conservatives, signed the shameful treaty that was to dictate the subsequent course of events.

The newsreels of the time show a euphoric Chamberlain arriving at Croydon airfield and brandishing the piece of paper that he had signed. He proclaimed to the British people: "I bring you peace in our time." Peace, he said, "is guaranteed for an entire generation." What he had in fact done was to take the decisive step towards World War II.

But as the world banded together against Nazism, as Roosevelt, displaying a prudence compatible with the alliance, led the capitalist forces that were cooperating with the Soviet Union, and as Churchill was intelligently resigned to such essential cooperation, the class nature of international politics did not and could not vanish. We can recall the exasperating delays in opening the Second Front, which prompted urgent demands from Stalin. We are also thinking about Churchill's strategy. He insisted that American and British forces invade along the Mediterranean, not join in the battle for the west, that they secure the so-called "southern underbelly," which would have enabled the strategists of imperialism to control geopolitical routes to the Soviet Union after the war.

We must remember all this, because the question that history poses is as follows: What path is best for mankind's permanent interests? The path indicated by the blind ideologues of anticommunism, the unwavering enemies of the Soviet Union, who persistently argue that the most important thing in our time is to destroy socialism, even if it takes a war, which would now be a nuclear war? Or the path mapped out by the experience of the 1940's, when eventually, driven by the pressing need to salvage the principles of coexistence and a modicum of respect for the rights of nations and men, the Soviet Union, the United States and the European countries represented by Churchill and De Gaulle forged the multifaceted alliance of the "united nations"?

Some of the American, British, French and Soviet soldiers who fought together might well hold a reunion on former battlegrounds to commemorate this 40th anniversary. Such an example of temporary coexistence ought to cause the capitalist world's foreign policymakers to reflect on the options that are now available.

It will also be an opportunity for their peoples to allow the necessary lessons to sink in.

The fact is that the defeat of fascism 40 years ago did not spell its final destruction. We are not worried, of course, about the tiny fascist groups that have attempted in recent decades, like masked performers at some sinister carnival, to revive the gestures, shouts and slogans of Hitler. Such groups are very short-lived. But the underlying factors that led to the fascist peril then still exist today amid the crisis of the capitalist system, which is political and moral as well as economic. For the time being it is unlikely that fascism will return to the world scene exactly as it did before. It does not seem possible that the same sort of racism that led to the extermination of millions of Jews can again rear its ugly head against other groups. (For those of us who championed the rights of the Jewish people as a sign of world progress, it is sad to see that the Zionists operating in Israel are using Nazi methods of action against the Arab peoples.) Moreover, 40 years after the unconditional surrender of the German Nazis, Italian Fascists and Japanese militarists, the hated apartheid system survives as a tragic anachronism in South Africa, tolerated and even actively helped by the most reactionary forces of world imperialism and some of the sectors that capitalism calls democratic.

We are reasonably confident that no one can lead a nation again to the heights of madness to which Hitler led the nation that gave us Goethe and Beethoven; nevertheless, other methods and other rallying cries could yield similar results.

Three years ago in Great Britain, President Reagan began his European trip with a repulsively immature anticommunist speech before the British Parliament. The address was larded with hypocritical references to peace and the threats of war, but his feverishly crusading tone reminded some of the sort of language that had brought the world closer to the Second World War. The continued determination to deploy 572 nuclear missiles in Europe aimed at the Soviet Union also recalls the European policy before 1941. The obsession that communism must be exterminated and thrown onto the garbage pile of history is incompatible with the only chance that our era has to guarantee peace: to accept peaceful coexistence between socialism and capitalism.

The history of the struggle against the Nazis showed not only that such coexistence is possible but also that socialist and capitalist regimes, whose ideologies are historically at odds, can join ranks against fanatics who would like to destroy communism militarily and eliminate the democratic elements that still exist within capitalism.

Communists and the Soviet Union as the principal socialist nation in our time have said and now reaffirm that although their goal is a world in which socialism will prevail, they do not see this as happening through military force or nuclear superiority. Instead, they view such a future as the inexorable result of internal changes within capitalism, which some time ago exhausted its progressive

potential, changes that will lead to the new society that is our dream. The congresses of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have stated this. Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko and Gorbachev have conveyed the same message, albeit in different ways. The point is not to use war to settle the issue of whether capitalism will survive or socialism will prevail. Both can coexist until the forces of history render their verdict.

Forty years after the defeat of Nazism, although the danger is great and the threats still audible, there is no reason for pessimism. Nations are much more aware now than in the days before Hitler. Millions of men and women in all European centers, headed by communists, Social Democrats, liberals, greens, Catholics and Protestants, have made known their opposition to the promoters of war. When the American people were asked what their greatest wish was, 80 percent of the respondents, including 70 percent of those who voted for Ronald Reagan in the recent 1984 elections, said that they hoped the Reagan administration would be able to enter into fruitful negotiations with the Soviet Union to put an end to the threat of nuclear war. Even the European NATO allies who willingly or unwillingly went along with the U.S. decision to station 572 missiles near the border with socialism are expressing in various ways their desire to find a way out of the crisis and to see negotiation prevail over confrontation. This has had an impact on U.S. policy. There has not yet been a change of course, but the aggressive policy has been toned down somewhat. When Reagan returned to Great Britain last year right before the election, his language was not as crudely anti-Soviet as in 1982. He has also changed the tone of the policy that the U.S. delegation will follow at the ongoing negotiations, though he is still determined (as he demonstrated in his talks with Sherebitski and as Washington has reaffirmed through all channels) to continue looking into the technological possibilities of the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative, which seeks to bring war into outer space.

It would be foolish to place our hopes in minimal changes, which could be mere rhetoric. The guarantee of peace begins with the firm policy of the Soviet Union and its unquestionable ability to respond to any insane nuclear attack and is carried forward by all of the world's forces for progress, democracy and peace. The effort must never slacken. The world's political blunders before 1938 helped Hitler to plunge the world into the most terrible war up to that time. If we were to make similar mistakes, the war that would await us would be even more horrible and would culminate with the extinction of the human race.

Therefore, it is our bounden duty to continue the mobilization.

Cuba in the Struggle Against Fascism

As we review all of the struggles that made possible the victory over fascism, the Cuban people also have legitimate reason to feel proud.

One of our most marvelous traits today is solidarity, in Angola, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Grenada and the dozens of countries in which Cubans are lending sister nations much-needed development aid. During the early days of the battle against fascism, Cubans provided a lofty example of such solidarity. More than 1,000 of our countrymen overcame the obstacles that tolerance of Hitler and Mussolini imposed on those who wished to come to the aid of the Spanish Republic, to battle the Hitlerite Falangist hordes and the Italian Fascists along the Ebro, in Guadalajara and in Majadahonda. As we have said, the gallant young Pablo de la Torriente Brau symbolized this sacrifice, which he shared with Rodolfo de Armas, Policarpo Canton and dozens of our countrymen. The defense of the Spanish Republic honed the antifascist spirit of the Cuban working class and masses. Tens of thousands of Cuban men and women demonstrated in the streets and at the meetings at which Marcelino Domingo, Gonzalez Pena and other leaders of Republican Spain spoke, denouncing the fascism that was overrunning nations.

The war that the Allies waged against Hitler and his henchmen enjoyed extraordinary grassroots support in Cuba. The Marxist-Leninist forerunners of our Cuban Communist Party had organized the National Antifascist Front, which brought together figures with a wide range of political and social views (the name of Gustavo Aldereguia stands out) as well as hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country in such a way that only those of us who witnessed and were involved in the campaign can now understand.

The Cuban working class was in the forefront of that mobilization and, led by Lazaro Pena, Jesus Menendez and their comrades, it made extraordinary efforts to produce the goods that the Cuban economy could contribute to the victory of the antifascist alliance.

We recall the emotional arrival of Soviet vessels in Cuban ports. Defying the marauding Nazi U-boats, they came to pick the clothing, foodstuffs and tools that our people, in a show of solidarity, were sending to the heroic combatants in Moscow, Stalingrad, Leningrad and Odessa. Never was the Cuban people's capacity for political cooperation greater. Only when Fidel summoned it up during our revolution did it emerge once again, even larger and with an even greater awareness.

Cubans gave their lives as well. Demonstrating the everlasting brotherhood of our two peoples, the Soviet Union and Cuba have just paid homage to two sons of our nation, Hugo Vivo and Enrique Vilar, who died as they fought among the ranks of the Red Army. We should also remember the seamen on the "Manzanillo," who perished in the line of duty transporting much-needed war supplies and whose burial was another expression of anti-Nazi combativity that we will never forget.

Socialist Cuba is thus entitled to participate in this commemorative retrospection. Continuing their militant anti-Nazism without interruption, the Cuban people have spoken out in recent years against any such vestiges of fascism in Latin America, be it the brutality of a Pinochet,

who is still in power, or the military regimes that cruelly oppressed the Argentine, Brazilian and Uruguayan people and that are still engaged in such repression in Central America and Paraguay, military regimes that learned their methods from the Nazis but perfected them with the help of the CIA.

Inspired by the immutable tradition of our militant defense of peace, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of a victory that we can modestly call ours. And we will again raise our old but everlasting banners with the cry that "La Pasionaria" immortalized: "They shall not pass!"

8743

CSO: 3248/423

CUBA

HOUSING LAW: PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING LEGAL OCCUPANCY

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish No 16,19 Apr 85 p 79

[Article by Dr Rene Gonzalez Mendoza]

[Text] As we have pointed out in earlier papers, the General Housing Law governs the cases of dwelling occupants who are able to obtain a declaration that they are onerous usufructuaries or legal occupants. For the uniform enforcement of this law's provisions, it is necessary to determine what proof the Municipal Housing Offices will require the moving parties to present in each case to obtain the declaration.

Today we will continue our discussion of the suppositions of this law so that the people covered by these provisions can begin procedures at the Municipal Housing Offices and present the required proof to exercise their rights.

Supposition G

"Anyone who is permanently occupying a dwelling whose owner is deceased, but is not an heir of said owner, as long as the occupant has resided in the dwelling for at least 1 year before the death of the owner, without prejudice to the rights this law grants to the originator's heirs."

The interested party must present the death certificate of the dwelling owner and oral evidence attesting that the claimant lived with the owner for at least 1 year prior to the owner's death, that the claimant continues to occupy the dwelling, and that the owner at no time would have taken legal action to terminate that cohabitation.

Supposition II

"Anyone who has occupied an individualized dwelling with due authorization from the usufructuary and continues to occupy such dwelling with the same authorization, said dwelling having a separate entrance and services, in a building that is subject to a usufruct contract in its entirety; unless such building has previously been separated."

This person must submit a written verification from the usufructuary confirming the initial authorization of the claimant to occupy the individualized

dwelling. He must also present oral evidence to attest that the claimant continues to occupy the dwelling.

Supposition I

"Anyone who is permanently occupying a state-owned dwelling, duly authorized by the state, without payment of any kind, as dictated by the competent authority, and anyone who has been released from any obligation to pay for the usufruct of the occupied dwelling by means of a documented decision by the competent authority; in any event, public assistance cases and cases considered to be illegal under the law shall be excepted."

The claimant must submit the contract from the competent authority permitting usufruct of the dwelling without payment, or a document, also from the competent authority, stating the grounds for the decision to release the occupant from the obligation to pay for the usufruct of the dwelling.

He must also submit an affidavit stating that he is not covered by Public Assistance benefits, and oral evidence attesting that the claimant continues to occupy the dwelling.

It should be noted that the legal occupant declaration can be issued at the request of the interested party, or on the initiative of the Municipal Housing Office itself; the latter must also determine whether the occupant should have to pay the cost of transferring ownership, and if so, the total amount of this cost and the monthly payments.

In addition, the Executive Committee of the municipal Peoples Government office may also issue legal occupant declarations by means of a documented agreement, for persons who are not onerous usufructuaries and do not fall into any of the categories indicated in the above suppositions, but can verify that they are in a similar position even though they do not meet all the requirements set forth in the law.

If more than one person claims to be the legal occupant of a dwelling and submits proof of the corresponding situation, the right of occupancy will be granted to the person who appears to be the head of the family that occupies the dwelling, as long as he resides therein.

If verification of this position cannot be provided, equal rights will be recognized for all claimants who have proven that they are in any of the aforementioned situations and can contribute to or pay in full the price of the dwelling.

Competent Authority

For the purposes of the law's provisions, regarding those who are authorized by the state to occupy a state-owned dwelling without payment of any kind as dictated by the competent authority, "competent authority" is considered to include the extinguished agencies, organizations or organs, or the following:

- Chairman of the Coordination, Execution and Inspection Board (JUCEI), Peoples Government or Local Government
- National Agrarian Reform Institute
- Revolutionary Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC)
- Department of War Victims
- Department of Recovery of Government Assets
- Department of Housing Control
- Special Zones
- Members of the Country's Leadership

Also for the purposes of this law's provisions, the "head of family" is considered to be the person who appears to represent the family unit in the absence of the holder of usufruct, a position to which the members of the family unit in question must attest in a declaration.

Oral Evidence

The oral evidence mentioned in the law must be given before the official of the Municipal Housing Office in the form of sworn statements by three competent witnesses, or before a notary public. In addition to the information called for in the declaration, the evidence must include the name, address and I.D. card number of each witness.

Other Elements

If the Municipal Housing Office concludes from its analysis of the evidence submitted by the claimant that the interested party does not meet all the requirements set forth, but at the same time there are reasons of social interest to rule favorably on the request, the case will be referred to the Executive Committee of the local Peoples Government office with a recommendation.

In such a case, if that office deems it appropriate or advisable, it will use the powers granted it by law to declare the claimant the legal occupant or onerous usufructuary, as the case may be.

It should be emphasized that in processing any claim and dealing with claimants or affected or interested parties in clearing up any matter related to housing, correct behavior will be observed at all times and people will be treated in a courteous, considerate, informative manner, in a spirit of solidarity and with an understanding of the problems the public faces.

Moreover, as the National Housing Institute has instructed, the municipal and provincial offices must adopt measures to process cases speedily and efficiently, eliminating any trace of bureaucracy and ensuring the resolution of matters within the term established by law.

Cases will be handled in the order in which they are filed, as long as the evidence is duly submitted by the parties or considered by the competent authority on its own initiative.

8926

CSO: 3248/425

CUBA

BRIEFS

FIRST EMULATION MEETING IN ANGOLA--The first meeting to assess emulation of Cuban civilian cooperation in Angola has been held in Luanda before a group of internationalist doctors, teachers, and construction workers who are helping in various Angolan provinces. Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Central Committee and ambassador to the People's Republic of Angola, emphasized the enthusiasm with which the Cubans develop emulation amid difficult conditions [words indistinct] the Cuban people's unrestricted support for Angolans. He also condemned Yankee imperialism, the racist regime of South Africa, and the puppets in the counterrevolutionary organization National Union for the Total Independence of Angola for their maneuvers against the Angolan revolutionary process. That emulation meeting did not include the Cuban-Angolan forestry contingency that works in the jungles of Maiombe, since that group operates under special conditions. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1818 GMT 27 Jun 85 FL]

CSO: 3248/436

ECUADOR

ECUADOR TO MAINTAIN OIL PRICES, DROP PRODUCTION

PA142326 Quito REUTER in Spanish to REUTER London 1823 GMT 13 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Quito, 13 Jun (REUTER)--Ecuador, OPEC's weakest member, announced today that it will not give in to pressures to reduce the price of its oil exports. However, in order to prevent further problems, it has decided to reduce its oil production by 10 percent.

Fernando Santos Alvite, under secretary of natural resources, told this agency that he had to deny "categorically" reports stating that the Quito authorities had decided to reduce the current official price of export crude.

"Although we are confronting problems with our long-term clients, the price will be maintained until the next OPEC ministers' regular meeting, scheduled for 5 July in Vienna," he added.

Ecuador, whose production surpasses 270,000 barrels a day, places 130,000 barrels per day on the oil market on long-term contracts with clients in the United States, Taiwan, South Korea, Switzerland, and Austria.

Santos Alvite added: "We already have problems with some of our clients who are not withdrawing their oil allotments; however, there are others that do."

Santos Alvite said that in order to prevent further difficulties at the next OPEC meeting in which the oil prices will be discussed, the Ecuadoran authorities have decided to reduce the country's oil production by 10 percent, stabilizing it at 250,000 barrels per day.

CSO: 3348/749

EL SALVADOR

CENTRAL BANK HEAD DISCUSSES NATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

Concern for Justice, Democracy

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 May 85 pp 3, 72

[Text] The war in El Salvador will not be won just militarily; it will also be won with education, democracy and social justice.

The president of the Central Reserve Bank (BCR), Alberto Benitez Bonilla, made this statement yesterday during a breakfast with Salvadoran journalists.

The war can be won militarily, eliminating the last extremist, but if there is no change in education, or in social and economic conditions, within 10 years we will return to the same situation, emphasized the economist who dictates national banking and financial policy.

He explained, furthermore, that our situation is that of a wartime economy, not a war economy. "We are consuming military goods and services," he asserted, "which we must import and which are destroying us—and herein lies the basic difference. A war economy, on the other hand, is one which creates jobs, employment, because all of its industrial activity is geared to the manufacture of instruments of war."

Benites Bonilla also pointed out that even though El Salvador has gone through 6 years of destructive war, it still has a "solid" economy compared to the other Central American countries. "It is incredible how much we have been able to endure," he stressed.

He explained that though the United States has indeed helped us, our financial discipline has also played a major role, because we have had no financial corruption.

Benitez Bonilla also praised Salvadoran workers and businessmen. "In El Salvador, thank God," he asserted, "the communists have suffered a reversal; they thought that with the first missile the people would leave their jobs as they did in Cuba; but here, the people did not abandon the trenches of labor."

22 July 1985

Tax Evasion

In another part of his talk with journalists, the Central Bank president dealt with tax evasion, particularly with respect to tax stamps, customs and the income tax.

He reported that during this fiscal year, the new controls imposed by the Finance Ministry will enable it to collect perhaps 20 million more colones from tax stamps. With the financial and technical assistance of the Agency for International Development (AID) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the ministry may be able to turn things around; it may confirm its opinion that it is not necessary to create more taxes or sources of financing, only to prevent tax evasion or capital flight, he said.

In this regard, Benitez Bonilla stated that U.S.-type legislation is necessary; that is, prison terms should be imposed for tax evasion, concluded the banking official.

Economic Growth

Alberto Benitez Bonilla also revealed that the analysis of the economic results for the first quarter of 1985 confirms what had been projected; an economic growth rate of 2 percent is possible, he asserted.

Our indicators show growth in the consumption of energy and cement, and increases in trade and tax revenues.

He also indicated that the cost of living index rose slightly, but that was because in December the percentage of imported goods shot up from 20 percent to 41 percent on the parallel foreign exchange market, he concluded.

Fiscal Deficit Problem Noted

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 May 85 pp 2, 27

[Text] Military spending accounts for 50 percent of the national budget, and the other 50 percent is not enough to cover the needs of the Education, Health, Agriculture and Public Works Ministries to create jobs.

Central Reserve Bank President Alberto Benitez Bonilla stated this yesterday during a breakfast for journalists at the Hotel Camino Real. Also present were BCR First Vice-President Jose Antonio Basagoitia and Jose Maria Rosales.

The country's monetary problems were discussed yesterday at the breakfast meeting, which was held for representatives of the national press.

The BCR president indicated that it is almost certain that President Duarte will have to revise the General Budget of the Nation when he returns from his trip to the United States.

El Salvador's problem, he noted, is that nearly 50 percent of the government's budget is taken up by military spending; the government is left with only half

the budget to maneuver with in its efforts to cut costs and meet its health, education, agriculture and public works needs.

In the past, the four ministries corresponding to these fields had a great capacity for creating jobs and spurring the economy.

At present, the government can make no investments; it has no more resources, indicated the banker.

Investment Programs Near Zero

The government's investment programs for this year are near zero, claimed the BCR president; moreover, the budgets for these ministries cannot continue to shrink, because that would mean eliminating jobs. Thus, "we must realize that our problem is sociopolitical; in other words, it involves a failure to redistribute income."

In addition, stated Benitez Bonilla, the private sector has also created fewer jobs due to the problem of the extremists. The government cannot provide jobs for lack of revenues, and the slump in activity in the private sector cuts back further on employment.

He disclosed that military spending has risen from the previous 10 percent of the budget to the present 50 percent. The inflexibility of the government's austerity policy is theoretical; not much can be done to bring down spending. "The problem we have is one of internal imbalances," stressed Benitez Bonilla.

Budget Deficit Causes Serious Problems

The budget deficit is increasing the rate of devaluation day after day, no matter how many financial austerity and export promotion measures are taken. These measures are not enough, because the devaluation involves the inflation-fueling process of financing government spending by expanding the money supply.

Alberto Benitez Bonilla explained that this problem has been avoided until now thanks to U.S. aid.

He went on to emphasize, "We cannot continue this trend; we cannot go on like this for the rest of our lives. We must realize that the time will come when the United States will plan its withdrawal and will gradually cut back."

Special Financing

Benitez Bonilla stated later that one measure that could be taken is to seek special financing. It is not a matter of creating a permanent tax, he explained; the citizenry, all sectors, should understand that military spending is essential, because the very survival of democracy in this country depends on it. Special financing should be sought so that current revenues can help finance education (we must be aware that the country is intellectually "de-capitalized") and the projects of the Ministry of Public Works, and thus

compensate for the lack of jobs in industry due to the crisis, stated the BCR president.

Cotton Problem

He also expressed his concern about the cotton problem to the national press representatives gathered at the breakfast meeting, in terms of the area to be planted during the present season. He noted that the government has transferred all sales to the parallel market, and the inputs will be granted to the sector in official foreign exchange. He said that a tax subsidy would be impossible in view of the government's deficit of 700 million colons.

The problem is of great concern, because the lack of jobs in the rural sector could create social problems, warned Benitez Bonilla.

8926

CSO: 3248/397

EL SALVADOR

CAMACHO ON INFLATION DUE TO INCREASED FISCAL DEFICIT

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 May 85 pp 2, 63

[Text] The increase in the budget deficit is simply a springboard for inflation, which is nothing less than the depreciation of the national currency.

The current minister of the economy, Dr Ricardo Gonzalez Camacho, explained the situation in this way to LA PRENSA GRAFICA yesterday.

The Economy Ministry, he added, is undertaking a major effort to fulfill its obligation to protect the Salvadoran economy and prevent the ravages of unjustified price increases for basic goods. To achieve this goal, it is enforcing current legislation and punishing all merchants who violate it. That is why an appeal has been issued to all consumers in the nation to report to Domestic Commerce, an office of the Economy Ministry, any rise in the prices of government-regulated goods, he said.

The government, economically speaking, is unable to raise the wages of its employees, but the needs, demands, and positions of public servants who want to improve their situation are perfectly well understood, stated Dr Gonzalez Camacho. In view of the fact that it is really impossible to grant raises, however, the government is trying to hold down the prices of staple goods, he said.

No Raises

The problem of raising wages and benefits in the public sector at a time like this, when we are engaged in a conflict that is taking up 50 percent of the budget all by itself, is very difficult. Of course, it must be recognized that the government has taken every possible measure, and has striven to maintain acceptable price levels for basic products. Items such as cooking oil, rice and milk have stayed at the same price since June of last year, and there are steady supplies, explained the economic official.

Raise Causes Budget Deficit

A wage hike leads to a budget deficit, and that is simply a springboard for inflation, which is the depreciation of the currency. As inflation climbs, less can be bought with the same amount of money, he indicated.

As wages rise through deficit spending, someone must foot the bill, and that someone is the people.

For this reason, we must be very careful in such a situation. This does not mean, however, that there will never be raises. The situation must be handled very carefully, and the prices of basic goods must not be allowed to rise.

This is the task that we all must carry out; some must be vigilant and others must enforce the law to prevent a few from lining their pockets at the expense of the people, he concluded.

8926

CS0: 3248/397

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

NEW CULTURE MINISTER POSITION—Communication is basic to the development of nations; for this reason, the Central Government will give priority to this activity for the benefit of the people. This was stated to LA PRENSA GRAFICA yesterday by an official spokesman for the President's Office, who indicated that the appointment of Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes as head of the new Ministry of Culture and Communications means that special attention will be given to all forms of communication and culture among the Salvadoran people. The activities in the field of communications entail not only telecommunications, but also other basic elements, such as highways, mail, tourism, information about El Salvador in all of its facets, sports, and other factors, explained the spokesman. This is why beginning 1 June of this year, an effort will be made not to centralize the management or administration of these services, but to coordinate them more efficiently with all the institutions involved in communication. For one reason or another, these institutions now fall under different state secretariats, which has increased the red tape involved. That is what officials are trying to avoid, so that effective communication can be carried out and all the disinformation campaigns caused by the failure to explain actions can be counteracted, he asserted. [Excerpt] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 May 85 pp 3, 60] 8926

CSO: 3248/397

GRENADA

MINISTRY'S NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN WINS APPROVAL

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 18 May 85 p 16

[Text] A submission to cabinet regarding the acceptance of a National Energy Plan and Programme for Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique has been recently approved.

This submission, presented by the minister responsible for energy, Dr Keith Mitchell, dealt with the development of appropriate policies, plan and programmes for the effective management of our energy sector.

Grenada, as an oil importing nation is almost totally dependent on imported energy supplies in the form of Gasolene, Diesel, Kerosene and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (L.P.G.). The proportion of our export earnings going to purchase this petroleum has doubled in the last decade, being at present almost 35 percent of domestic exports, just about what we would get from our total export of nutmegs and bananas, two major export earners. With the expected investment and growth in the economy, this proportion could increase at an even faster rate.

It is therefore of critical importance, Dr Mitchell noted, that we have in place an effective system of energy management. This must include a sound institutional framework, a vital part of which is the Department of Energy as a planning coordinating and monitoring body within the Ministry of Works and Communications.

The National Energy Plan and Programme takes into account the conservation of energy through public education and pricing policy and also the development of our indigenous energy resources ranging from possible oil and gas deposits to our hydro and solar resources.

The minister called on the public at large and especially the high energy consuming enterprises to develop a greater awareness of the various aspects of our energy sector in the hope that more rational usage of energy would allow us to more ably face the task of developing our country in these times of high energy prices.

CSO: 3298/830

GRENADA

PAPER SLAMS MISCHIEF-MAKERS, URGES GOVERNMENT ACTION

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 8 Jun 85 p 4

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] Enough is enough! A way has got to be found to curb the activities of these shameless perpetrators of mischief. They are continuing in their customary, communistic, manipulative way to disrupt and to undermine peace, harmony and good order in the land by making great issues out of almost nothing. By capturing every apparent "cause" and blowing them up out of all proportion. And by seeking to inflame the society to the point where it can feel ready and willing, to accept, "revolution" once again.

The irony of the matter is that the people who make the loudest noise about their "rights" are the same people who were party to the arbitrary abrogation of all the rights of others.

Einstein Louison for instance is only "hoist by his (party's) own petard" when his passport is seized. It was his party which passed the law to provide for this. For exercising their basic rights--some times even for merely existing--hundreds of our citizens were jailed without charge or trial and or penalised in other ways.

During the reign of the NJM no group would have dared to challenge authority and occupy a park for a rally in defiance of police, as the MBPM did at Cuthbert Peters Park last Sunday. In addition to this many of the utterances of some of the leaders of this organisation borders, in our opinion, on the seditious.

It is time for the authorities to take seriously these people's determination and capacity to create disorder and to take them in hand. We call upon the police to examine whether a law was broken on Sunday and, if so, to press charges. And each time they break the law they must be charged. They will claim harassment, but they will make outrageous claims anyway. It is their nature and their method.

Freedoms and rights were provided to be enjoyed and for the protection of the people against oppression. They were not made to be abused. It is well known

that this group continues to direct through their cronies at least some of the affairs of certain government departments and institutions.

As the Americans prepare to leave the disruptors are clearly stepping up the tempo to test the resolve and the strength of the government and its security measures.

A display of weakness or undue tolerance would be a disastrous mistake. Steps must be set in train now to contain, if not excise, this cancer in our midst.

CSO: 3298/829

GRENADA

OPPOSITION MP PETERS DISTURBED BY SOME NNP ACTIONS

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 8 Jun 85 p A

[Text] Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew's North East and Leader of the Opposition, Marcel Peters is angry. He is concerned that NNP Parliamentarians are not observing protocol. Peters feels that work should not be done in his constituency without consultation with him. He gives as an example, the fact that, as part of a USAID funded nationwide school repair programme, repairs to the Belair Government School were undertaken without his knowledge and, to add insult to injury, the job was given to a builder who lives in another constituency (St. Patrick's East) while there are qualified people in his own constituency to do the job. He wants to know whether the reverse will be the case when St. Patrick's schools are being repaired.

Another matter causing Mr. Peters concern is that the NNP is forming groups that are supposed to be clubs but which are in fact political groups. He was invited to a meeting of one such group in Upper St. John's on Thursday and Chairman Samuel Phillips told him that it was an NNP political group. He said he told the group that their plan to build what they called a Community Centre but what he considered to be a party hall cannot be accomplished with government funds or money from funding agencies.

Efforts to reach a government minister or NNP official to comment on this matter were unsuccessful.

CSO: 3298/829

22 July 1985

GRENADA

PRIVATE FM STATION BEGINS TESTS; NO GOVERNMENT OK GIVEN

Government Position

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 23 Jun 85 p 4

[Text]

ST. GEORGES, Sat., (Cana) — Grenada's six-month-old government has denied that it signed any agreement for the setting up of a private radio station in the northern town of Grenville.

Prime Minister Herbert Blaize was reacting in a statement to claims by interests connected with the proposed station that official approval had already been given for establishment of FM 90 Radio La Baye, as the system is being advertised.

Within the past month, backers of the station have reportedly brought in new equipment for the facility and selected sites to house studio and transmitters.

The promoter of the radio station is said to be Stanley Charles, Grenada-born journalist who lives in Britain.

Prime Minister Blaize said that, although advised while in London by

a Grenada Cabinet Minister to hold full discussions with the government here before securing equipment for the proposed station, the promoter indicated that he had to go ahead anyway because of some previous arrangement he had made.

Putting the cart before the horse as the promoter of Radio La Baye seems inclined to do, cannot be accepted as normal procedure and the promoter and all connected with him must be so advised, Blaize added.

However, the Government said it is fully prepared to discuss venture proposals with any Grenadian with a clear understanding that such talks must be held prior to any formal decision.

Charles had circulated a release here last month in which he said that Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica was expected to visit the island to witness the signing of the deal with the Government.

Test Transmissions

FL012341 Bridgetown CANA in English 2208 GMT 1 Jul 85

[Text] St Georges, Jul 1--The organisers of a private FM radio station in a rural area of Grenada have begun broadcast testing despite assertions from the government that no permission was given for its establishment.

This is FM 90 Radio La Baye testing, a male voice said repeatedly as the radio station began testing from Saturday.

Sources close to the organisers of the radio station told CANA that installation of the antennae should be completed by today.

No details were given by the announcer as to the date for the start of regular broadcasting.

The organisers said government had agreed to their proposal to launch the island's second radio station and its first privately owned one on conditions that the station operate only on the FM band and that the relevant broadcasting license be obtained.

CSO: 3298/829

GRENADA

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL CHANGES--Matthew Williams, Grenada's ambassador to Venezuela for the People's Revolutionary Government, and who continued to hold the post after the intervention, has been recalled and the man designated to replace him is N.E. "Bunny" Fletcher who, after being put "in orbit" for approximately two years by the PRG, was brought back to active service by the Interim Council and appointed permanent secretary in the chairman's office. Fletcher was retained as P.S. to the prime minister after elections and this position will now be filled by Mrs Margaret Dowe who is currently P.S. in the Ministry of Health. Mrs Ruth Rahim is being moved from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Health and her job as P.S. in agriculture will be performed by Mr Denis Noel in conjunction with the post of chief technical officer in that ministry. It is not yet known what posting will be given to former Ambassador Williams. [Text] [St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 25 May 85 p B]

CSO: 3298/830

GUYANA

PROSPECTS FOR PNC-PPP DIALOGUE MAKE PROGRESS

Jagan Interview

Georgetown MIRROR in English 26 May 85 pp 2-3

[Text] The following is the text of questions asked by media personnel and answered by PPP General Secretary Cheddi Jagan at a Press Conference he hosted at Freedom House on May 9, 1985.

Gaitri Jaundoo—Guyana Broadcasting Corporation: You say the PNC is not genuine in its call for dialogue and the PPP is prepared to do everything possible to have that dialogue. Yet you seem to be setting out conditions for the dialogue. Why?

Dr. Jagan: No. We are not setting out conditions. All we are saying is that they must create a certain atmosphere. Our position is that we have doubts about the PNC. But we give them the benefit of the doubt. In other words one can't be too sure what they want to talk to us about. They said they want to have talks for co-operation. And we have examined the class nature of this party and state and have come to certain conclusions.

We have a form of capitalism here and dual tendencies in the ruling party. The majority tendency at the moment perpetuates a certain system which we call bureaucratic-state, co-operative and parasitic capitalism. There is a minority section of this petty-bourgeois class which is left-wing, called revolutionary democratic, and that section probably wants to go forward. We are therefore seeing a possibility of a chance to go forward.

I want to make this major point. We do not think that dialogue alone will change the situation. The working people have to struggle in order to achieve what we consider to be the right course for Guyana. It is not going to be done by dialogue alone.

Bhagwandin, Guyana News Agency: Back to the National Front. Don't you see such diverse forces like the church and the business community, taking into consideration the parallel economy, organising against such a front?

Dr. Jagan: The church, business community, professional groups and the middle strata are very important sections of the society. We have taken note of that.

That is why our party said openly that we intend to consult with all these forces. We have already had one talk with the TUC and we hope to meet them again. We have written to the Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers' Association, the professional groups and we are hoping to meet all these bodies very soon because we think they not only can but must play a useful role in a future political solution in this country.

This is so for various reasons. Firstly, the parlous state of the economy. The broader the base of the government, the larger the support for the government. Naturally, it would be easier to solve the problems of the economy.

Secondly, the question of securing the territorial integrity and independence of the country. Any government anywhere in the world which wants to take a progressive, revolutionary course will come under attack from imperialism. Nicaragua is a living example right now. As such the government must have the broadest possible support of those interests you mentioned. And this is why we are interested in broad dialogue with all those social forces in the country.

Clem David--Guyana Broadcasting Corporation, CANA and Radio Antilles: If the PPP and the PNC were to reach common ground in relation to a National Front and you being a senior and respected political leader, what position would you be prepared to accept in a National Patriotic Front Government?

Dr. Jagan. I am not interested in any positions, personally. My party is interested in a democratic solution and programme which will help the country and people. I am not looking for positions.

PPP Agreement to Talk

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jun 85 p 13

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Mon., (Cana): THE People's Progressive Party (PPP), Guyana's main opposition group, has accepted an invitation from the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) for bilateral unity talks at the leadership level, a senior PPP official said.

The decision was taken in the interest of national development, security and socialist construction, the official told the Caribbean News Agency (Cana).

The central executive of the PPP had been discussing the proposal with its regional officers and rank and file members since last February.

"The decision to accept the invitation will mark an important development in the relations between the once bitter political enemies," the party official said.

The PPP has been proposing a national unity government as a means of tackling Guyana's myriad social and economic problems. Both the PPP and the PNC say they are Marxist-Leninist.

Political sources here said Socialist Bloc countries, notably Cuba and the Soviet Union, had been pushing for the two parties to resolve outstanding differences and work towards unity and co-operation.

The PNC announced its desire last January to pursue constructive dialogue with the PPP in the interest of national unity.

Jagan on Objectives

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jun 85 p 14

[Text] Guyana's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) is to get together with its main political rival, the People's Progressive Party (PPP), in an attempt to find a political solution to worsening economic and social conditions in that country.

The parties are expected to start talks shortly aimed at building up a broad-based political front to represent the interest of workers, farmers, intellectuals, small businessmen, the Church and other important social sectors. The talks are to be held at the suggestion of the PPP.

According to PPP General Secretary and Leader of the Opposition in Guyana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the idea is for the country to attain a government of all left and democratic forces based on democracy and anti-imperialism, with socialist orientation.

"We are hoping the talks will help in the process of building a national patriotic front," Dr. Jagan said at a news briefing yesterday.

He said that the country was in danger of falling into the "dependant/distorted form of capitalism" that existed in many debt-ridden Latin American countries.

Only Solution

"The only solution is socialist orientation--a political front in which the PPP, PNC and any other political party can take an active role. Social and economic organisations must also play a vital role in governing and decision making," he added.

Dr. Jagan, who ends a four-day visit to Trinidad today, said that change was necessary but he would not condone any change that would involve "jumping from the frying pan into the fire."

He said that Guyana's acute financial and social problems stemmed from the fact that there was no democracy at any level, no people's involvement, and this had led to poor production levels with repercussions on the country's economy.

This was combined with extravagance and corruption, he added.

Pressing Matters

The PPP was hoping that talks between the two parties could cover a number of pressing matters which required attention and urgent resolution.

These, he said, included:

--Ensuring democracy at the political, social and industrial levels and the people's involvement in decision making. This would include official recognition

of the genuine and democratic economic and social organisations of the people and respect for the constitutional rights of the democratically-organised and run political organisations. Special attention must be paid to free and fair elections at the national, regional and local levels.

--The need immediately to set up a Government/Opposition Committee to examine the entire range of importation and distribution of goods and to put in place a system for the fair distribution of such goods.

--Taking all practical measures to curb the lowering of the people's living standards and the deterioration of social services, while offering adequate wages and salaries and eliminating extravagance and all forms of discrimination and corruption.

--Safeguarding and defending national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity by expanding the People's Militia into every town, village and community.

--Deepening Guyana's anti-imperialist policy and establishing the closest relations with the socialist community, both for economic and social development and for defence of political independence.

Havana Visit

The working class would to play a vital role in this expected political alliance, Dr. Jagan said.

Figures given by the Opposition Leader showed that the country was faced with an ever-increasing budget deficit. Last year it was \$389 million with debt and compensation payments at \$699 million.

Dr. Jagan is to pay a week-long visit to Havana, Cuba, before returning to Guyana.

Jagan on 'Front'

Georgetown MIRROR in English 19 May 85 pp 2-3

[Text] The following are two questions posed by Radio Journalist Clem David and answered by PPP General Secretary, Cheddi Jagan, at a press conference at Freedom House on May 9, 1985.

Clem David: One foreign correspondent has reported that the PPP is seriously interested in taking political power in the next general elections and that the PPP is prepared to go as far as possible in seeking an alliance of political groupings to unseat the PNC government.

There seems to be a strange relationship now perhaps it is the case of the tom cat and the canary. Of those unions which took part in what was called the parallel rally, three of them are opposed to the socialist intentions of the present government. Your party for decades now has spoken of socialism. How

do you perceive this gathering of strange bed-fellows in terms of what I wish to call a strong political manoeuvre. In terms of the present situation--a split in the ranks of the TUC--how do you perceive the PPP contesting an election to fight the PNC, perhaps next year?

Answer: You have asked very complex questions. I would try to answer them. Firstly, the PPP, like any other political party is interested in political power. We are a working class party of Guyana. But we have said repeatedly that we believe in the politics of "winner-does-not-take-all" in the present situation. We therefore want "front" politics--a National Patriotic Front.

We have said that any party, any group, can belong to such a front provided they subscribe to three main principles--democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation.

When some people ask: Can the PNC belong? We say the PNC can belong like anyone else if they subscribe to those three principles. Our problem with the PNC is that the PNC does not practice democracy in Guyana as a government in any form--political, social or industrial. So far as the other two questions are concerned, anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation we are saying that in anti-imperialism, they must deepen the content of that; where social-orientation is concerned they must lay the foundations for this property.

As regards others, some want democracy only. We have repeatedly said that bourgeois democracy alone cannot solve the problems of the people. While we struggle for democracy we want to give it a content. At the Critchlow Labour College seminar, when the WPA put forward the slogan of a democratic republic we said there are bourgeois democratic republics, revolutionary democratic republics and socialist-democratic republics. We are calling for a revolutionary-democratic republic with the content of anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation. We are not in any alliance with what you call "strange bedfellows."

Let me make another point here. The TUC is not a political party. The TUC is an organisation bringing together trade unions and workers who belong to those trade unions. These workers belong to different political parties and have different political parties and have different ideological political perspectives. It is not expected that the TUC would have one ideological position. As George Daniels, TUC President said, the TUC has people from the PPP, PNC and WPA. Therefore we are not there uniting only on the grounds of ideology. GAWU is uniting there with other forces who want democracy, a living wage and for good conditions for the working people. And if the government of Guyana is anti-working class, anti-labour, then we will ally with anybody in the TUC to fight for those conditions.

At the political level, this is a different question. GAWU operates at the trade union level and Guyana and may be working within the six union movement, one also has to take into consideration that the TUC itself as an organisation is committed to socialism. At the CLC seminar, President George Daniels got up and said that the TUC is committed to socialism. So I do not see where the quarrel of the PNC-controlled unions is with the TUC. The TUC as an organisation is committed to socialism and democracy and those two things are linked up in our

view. We do not see any reason for the PNC to split the working class movement in Guyana when it says it wants socialism also. To go to socialism, we need working class unity to strengthen the class struggle in order to attain socialist objectives.

Clem David: Are we witnessing the beginning of a new class struggle?

Answer: No. There is no new class struggle; it is on-going. We have identified the positions where the class struggle in the context of Guyana means working class unity, fight against International Monetary Fund, which is an instrument of imperialism; fight against imperialism in its war mongering all over the [text missing] should go to solving problems of peoples like the people of Guyana; in other words, part of the class struggle is to fight against imperialism in the international and regional arena; to fight for the Caribbean to become a zone of peace; to stop intervention of imperialism as it did in Grenada and is now threatening Nicaragua. That is part of the class struggle of the Guyanese people.

Internally, also, the Guyanese people have to wage class struggle against the existing system which is anti-working class--the system which we call bureaucratic, state, co-operative and parasitic capitalism. We have said that we do not want to go backwards from the existing system to the free enterprise dependent distorted system, which has been existing in Latin America, and which has already proved bankrupt. That system is no answer. The class struggle in Guyana therefore means forcing this government to go forward to a socialist-oriented course. And that is what we are working for--unity of the working class and for the working class to wage the struggle against the existing system here, which is not serving the working people, and to go to a more progressive direction.

CSO: 3298/794

GUYANA

BACKGROUND TO PNC-PPP DIALOGUE EXAMINED

FL201240 Bridgetown CANA in English 1328 GMT 19 Jun 85

[Text] Georgetown, Jun 19--Guyana's two major political parties are on the verge of high-level cooperation talks which, if successful, could significantly change the country's political landscape, and impact on this republic's relations with partners in the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

No date has yet been fixed for the get-together, but both the ruling socialist People's National Congress (PNC) and the Marxist opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) have named their representatives for a technical committee, responsible for making preparations for the discussions.

The composition of the committee underlines the seriousness with which both sides are approaching the discussions. The PNC chief delegate is Ranji Chandisingh, himself a former high ranking official of the PPP, but now general secretary of the PNC.

Chandisingh has a reputation among political analysts here as a radical Marxist. The other PNC delegate is Elvin McDavid, a central executive committee member of the PNC, and widely considered here as one of President Forbes Burnham's closest political aides.

The PPP delegation is made up of two executive members, Parliamentarian and Education Secretary Feroze Mohamed and International Secretary Clement Rohee.

Creation of this preparatory committee is the first substantive step towards bringing together arch political rivals, President Forbes Burnham, Guyana's leader since 1964, and Dr Cheddi Jagan, leader of the opposition, a former premier and a committed Marxist.

Jagan, in accepting the PNC's invitation to formal talks, has already given notice that the PPP is interested not only in a greater say in economic decision-making but also wants to talk about deepening Guyana's anti-imperialist policy... a euphemism for moving further to the left.

He also urged discussions on establishing the closest relations with the socialist community for economic and social development...which could be translated as advocating some type of formal association between Guyana and

the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)--an economic grouping of Eastern bloc countries popularly referred to in the West as COMECON.

Guyana may begin to see more compelling reasons now for developing such an association, with its sources of economic aid in the West growing shorter as its debt arrears accumulate.

Jagan also asked for the discussions to include subjects such as:

Official recognition of the genuine and democratic economic, and social organisations of the people...with special attention focused on free and fair elections at all levels;

The creation of a government/opposition committee to examine the import and distribution of goods and the establishment of a mechanism to ensure fair distribution of these goods;

Practical measures to improve living conditions in the country and to halt what the PPP sees as a deterioration in the social services in the country;

Safeguarding national sovereignty by expanding the people's militia to include every town, village and community; and

Deepening Guyana's anti-imperialist policies, together with the establishment of a central planning commission to oversee development of the economy.

Responding to Jagan's agenda, Reid [as received] merely noted the subjects he proposed discussing. But he added: Without prejudging the relevance, admissibility or exclusivity of the issues, we feel it would be more advantageous to leave to the preparatory committee any questions as to the specific matters which might properly be the subject of the inter-party talks.

The formal move towards some kind of dialogue between the two, who until the 1950's were political associates, came from the PNC, although informed political sources here said Dr Jagan had himself informally indicated a desire for such discussions previously.

The PPP leader had, in fact, publicly called for at least some minimum cooperation with the PNC. But until January this year, there was no explicitly positive response from the ruling party. But this has not frustrated collaboration between Guyana's two most powerful political forces at lower levels.

The PNC-supported Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) and the PPP-linked Guyana Peace Council (GPC) have had cordial relations for some time, and have more often than not enunciated identical positions on such regional and international issues as peace in Central America, and nuclear disarmament.

The PPP and PNC also collaborated in recent demonstrations outside the American Embassy here protesting the United States trade embargo against Nicaragua. PNC Executive Secretary Patrick Denny described the demonstrations by the two parties as an exercise designed to show the support of the Guyanese people for the Nicaraguans.

But a more pointed example of the growing climate of accommodation between the two parties came at the level of the National Assembly last month, when the government moved to tighten national security legislation, to provide, among other things, for preventive detention.

The PPP opposed the measure, and in a letter to PNC Executive Committee Chairman Dr Ptolemy Reid, warned that its introduction could hinder moves towards reconciliation between the two parties.

The government deferred the bill when it came up in the National Assembly, and the state media specifically made clear that the decision not to take any further action on it stemmed from representations by the opposition PPP.

But these examples of an improving climate of cooperation between the PPP and PNC are being quickly eclipsed by the real prospects of a Burnham-Jagan summit and eventual fundamental changes in Guyana's political and economic alignments.

An important factor influencing PNC moves towards the fruitful cooperation talks is Guyana's economic crisis, characterised by multiple devaluations in the last 18 months, a severe foreign exchange shortage, debt of more than 1 billion dollars (U.S.), and a drying up of economic assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Another important factor influencing the current moves towards some kind of accommodation has been the ruling party's loss of control of the powerful Trade Unions Congress (TUC), which speaks for the 24 unions that make up the labour movement here.

The largest, the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU), which groups employees in the vital sugar industry, is PPP-controlled. The PPP is also supported by six other unions which together with the GAWU account for 50,000 of the 80,000 workers in the labour movement.

Trade unions supportive of the PNC had held control of the TUC for much of the 20 years the PNC has been in power. But the party lost that control when the TUC held its most recent elections, reportedly shocking the hierarchy of the PNC.

A coalition of some kind with the PPP would, effectively, restore considerable governmental influence--even if not complete control--over the TUC.

One notable absentee from the present initiatives has been the Working People's Alliance (WPA), whose late leader, Dr Walter Rodney, was slain in a car bomb blast five years ago this month. Precisely why the WPA has been reduced to the role of spectator has not been explained by either the PNC or the PPP, which has, in the past, suggested its inclusion in any patriotic front government.

Observers suggest that the WPA has been unable to recover from Dr Rodney's death, and its once promising following has now dwindled into virtual insignificance.

Another more fundamental reason being advanced is a fear among some leftwing political figures here and elsewhere in the Caribbean that the WPA's ranks may now include elements whose genuine loyalties to socialism have become suspect.

This aside, the impact of a PNC-PPP administration would almost certainly be felt in Caricom, especially if the creation of such a government is accompanied by the postponement of general elections, constitutionally due by next March at the latest.

Against a background of persistent charges of human rights abuse and election rigging, Guyana's relations with its more conservative neighbours in Caricom have never been particularly warm.

The late Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams took Burnham to task from time to time. Jamaica not so long ago was privately advocating a new regional grouping that would have excluded Guyana.

Dominica's Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles is on record advocating the move of the Caricom Secretariat from Georgetown to another country in the community.

Formation of a hardline Marxist government in Guyana, particularly if elections are postponed, seems bound to provoke more strenuous moves for its isolation in Caricom.

Caricom, with its predominantly rightwing governments, has always if not demanded, then expected that regular general elections were necessary for full acceptance into the community, as illustrated by the community's lukewarm attitude to the People's Revolutionary Government in Grenada between 1979 and 1983. The PRC had come to power in the Commonwealth Caribbean's first coup d'etat.

CSO: 3298/817

GUYANA

JAGAN STATEMENT ON IMF DECISION, GOV'T 'COLLABORATION'

Georgetown MIRROR in English 19 May 85 p 1

[Text]

The following is a statement issued by PPP General Secretary Cheddi Jagan on the recent declaration of the IMF.

While the declaration of the IMF that Guyana was "ineligible to use the resources of the Fund" is deplorable, it was something not unexpected.

The IMF, as an imperialist-controlled financial and monetary institution, placed Guyana into a debt trap, with the willing collaboration of the PNC government. It then imposed political/ideological conditions.

At first, in the 1978-83 period, the PNC regime collaborated with the Fund in its anti-working class and external pro-imperialist depredations. It was only since 1983, in keeping partly within its own partisan interest, that the PNC began opposing the IMF prescriptions, and even then with a lack of firmness. The government should have abandoned the IMF road instead of waiting to be declared ineligible.

The assertion by the regime that the IMF decision underscores the need for self-reliance is not enough. There has been talk for a very, very long time about self-reliance. It is necessary to translate talk into action. At the same time the government is still hoping despite the decision, to strike an agreement. We need a national dialogue not IMF dialogue.

The fact is that, despite the considerable help from the IMF and other external financial institutions, the country has retrogressed not progressed. This has been basically due to the government's perpetual reliance on greater and greater taxation and borrowing. It has failed to deal with the structural impediments to increases in production, productivity, and exports and self-sufficiency.

Self-sufficiency will never be attained with the government on a deliberate collision course with the workers and their trade union movement, the farmers, the Church, professional bodies and the business community, and rule by terror and fear.

Had the PNC heeded the PPP's advice since 1978 about the IMF, it would not today be bewailing the Fund's declaration of "ineligibility". The time has come for the only way out of the crisis: the implementation of the PPP's call for a National Patriotic Front and Government of all left and democratic forces, based on a programme of democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist orientation.

GUYANA

COUNTRY HAS GOOD RECORD WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 19 May 85 p 1

[Text]

GUYANA is not in arrears with the Inter-American Development Bank, and that regional lending institution has no problems with this country as far as satisfying the criteria for loans is concerned.

This was stated yesterday by the Bank's representative in Guyana, Manuel Arísty. He stated that since Guyana joined the IDB in 1976 it received \$158 million US in loans for development of almost every sector of the economy, but particular attention has been paid to

support for agricultural projects.

Speaking on the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation weekly programme, Face The Nation, he said that in its 25 years of operation \$25 billion US have been issued to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean for developmental projects.

And since 1978 a portion of this money has been disbursed to small farmers and other artisans who do not qualify for loans under the normal banking system.

So far 127 such loans have been disbursed, totalling \$53 million US.

He explained that part of the Bank's role is to support regional economic integration through groupings like the Latin American Integration Movement and Caricom. He disclosed that in keeping with this position \$25 million was recently loaned to the Caribbean Development Bank.

CSO: 3298/796

GUYANA

PNC, PPP JOIN IN PROTEST OF U.S. POLICY ON NICARAGUA

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 2 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] In a show of solidarity with the People of Nicaragua, Guyana's two leading political parties the People's National Congress and the People's Progressive Party yesterday mounted a joint picketing exercise in front of the United States Embassy in Main Street, Georgetown.

The picketing exercise lasted two hours and attracted a large crowd of interested spectators who were reminded of U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean and Latin American region.

According to Executive Secretary of the ruling People's National Congress, Patrick Denny, the exercise was organised to demonstrate the support of the Guyanese people for the Nicaraguans.

The United States of America in an effort to overthrow the legally elected Sandinista government is openly supporting the "Contras," a group of rebels. Over the past few months, the Reagan administration, in spite of opposition from the U.S. Congress, has increased its financial and material support for the rebels who are fighting against the Sandinistas.

The U.S. has also imposed economic sanctions, similar to the ones against Cuba, in an effort to bring the Daniel Ortega government to its knees and at the same time strangle the Nicaraguan revolution.

The economic sanctions involve the:

- * prohibition of all imports into the U.S. of Nicaraguan goods,
- * prohibition of all exports from the U.S. to Nicaragua,
- * prohibition of Nicaraguan planes from operating to and from points in the U.S., and
- * prohibition of Nicaraguan ships from entering U.S. ports.

The placards which represented the views of many developed and developing countries urged the U.S. government to give the Contadora peace process a chance and to lift the embargo.

The Contadora group, made up of Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia, is trying to find a solution to the Central American conflict.

GUYANA

JAGAN, IN TRINIDAD, DISCUSSES TRADE UNION SITUATION

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 9 Jun 85 p 3

[Article by Irma Rambaran]

[Text] **DR CHEDDI JAGAN**, Guyana's Opposition Leader, yesterday called for the unity of all anti-imperialists and peace forces to make the Caribbean a zone of peace.

Speaking at the fourth biennial conference of the Bank and General Workers Union at the St Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies,

Jagan said this must be the Caribbean's contribution to world peace and it would be "the greatest tribute that we can pay to the great Caribbean revolutionary, Maurice Bishop."

Jagan, whose address was entitled *The Caribbean Working Class — Its Present Aspirations*, said no other single issue was more important today than world peace and "in this period of deep crisis, unity and solidarity must be our watchwords."

He added: "Above all there is urgent need for working class unity. Regrettably, the disunity created by the colonialists in their divide and rule policies are being perpetuated by present day self-seekers."

In outlining the history of the working class in the Caribbean, Jagan said that although colonialism had come to an

end, neo-colonialism remained and "the new but more subtle form of domination under dependent distorted capitalism

has led to grave economic and social crisis and rapidly deteriorating living standards."

He said the Caribbean ruling class in the 1980s, in the face of an aggravated economic situa-

tion, had adopted a "pragmatic rightist-opportunistic course. They opted for handouts under (U.S. President Ronald) Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative and have become linked in a political/military alliance with the United States."

Jagan added that another major factor posing problems for the Caribbean democratic, anti-imperialist and leftist forces was "a captive trade union movement in the services of U.S. capital and local reaction."

"The trade union movement," he said, "has been instrumental in either playing a counter-revolutionary role in collaboration with the CIA or taking a class collaboration position betraying the interests of the workers. The trade unions are generally manipulated in the hands of

'labour-aristocracy', have become docile and are largely ignored."

Jagan also said that the division of the left in Trinidad and Tobago has been responsible for the People's National Movement's ability to hold power since 1956.

"In Trinidad and Tobago, various political/ideological tendencies in the labour movement and mistakes in strategy and tactics have led to confusion among the workers and division in the democratic, progressive and anti-imperialists ranks."

"Largely through division of the left, the PNM regime has been able to hold political power since 1956. And, regrettably, the vacuum created by the growing unpopularity of the PNM regime is being filled by the centrist/rightist forces."

CSO: 3298/794

GUYANA

BURNHAM, REID ADDRESS PNC GENERAL COUNCIL SESSION

Prospects for '85

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 19 May 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

LAST year saw the dawning of a new era. The Guyanese economy grew by more than two per cent when many other countries, including some in the developed world, continued to experience negative growth. This year promises to be even better.

Leader of the People's National Congress and President, Cde. Forbes Burnham, predicts that 1985 will be historic. Deputy Leader, Cde. Ptolemy Reid, believes 1985 will be our "Shining Year." All indications are in this direction.

There is much to be achieved in the field of agriculture both in terms of what can be accomplished by our own efforts as well as that which will be achieved with assistance from friendly countries. Yugoslavia is just one of the friendly countries from which Guyana will obtain equipment. The equipment from Yugoslavia will be for agricultural development.

In addition agriculture will be boosted by the local production of small water pumps. Actual production of the pumps should commence by year end.

LEADERSHIP.

Quite rightly the national focus is on agriculture,

especially when one considers that millions face death from starvation as a result of drought, famines and floods.

But as Cde. Burnham, in a major presentation to the last General Council meeting of the Party said: "It is not for us to exult over the misfortune of others. Rather, let us take comfort in the fact that none of these happenings, natural or man-made, have taken place in Guyana."

While other countries are experiencing difficulties in feeding their people because of the wise leadership of the P.N.C. Guyanese are in the fortunate position of having an abundance of food, some of which we export.

During the 1960s the PNC launched a programme to feed, clothe and house the nation. The 'ban' was introduced during the early 1970s and immediately the nation's farmers began to earn the just rewards for their labour. They started to earn more for their efforts. Prior to the ban on certain imported foods Guyana was paying foreign farmers for their agricultural production.

DEVELOPMENT

This year, development is to take place in a number of areas. Through a line-of-credit with Yugoslavia,

Guyana will receive equipment for the canning industry.

Canning will enable Guyana to preserve those foods which, during times of glut, tend to be wasted and which fetch very high prices in times of scarcity.

Through the Yugoslav line-of-credit equipment will be acquired for the Guyana Electricity Corporation which is now experiencing

problems.

Our timber industry has the potential to become an important foreign exchange earner in Guyana. Guyana is soon to acquire equipment for drying and seasoning wood. Again these will come from Yugoslavia and they will be consigned to the Demerara Woods complex at Mabura.

COUNTERTRADE.

Needless to say, every piece of equipment from Yugoslavia must be paid for.

Initially bauxite is to be used in exchange for these equipment. The Yugoslavs need some 50 000 tonnes of abrasive grade bauxite for their industries and Guyana is in a position to satisfy this need without any reduction in sale on the conventional

markets.

The People's Republic of China needs wood from Guyana; many Eastern European countries need rice, sea foods, and a variety of resources boasted by Guyana; Libya needs rice, fish, shrimp and other foods; the Caribbean needs food from Guyana. Guyana has resources that are needed by many countries.

Cde. Burnham said that the imagination of the nation and the proper deployment of its resources led to the acquisition of "those things we need."

IMAGINATION.

Exploitation of Guyana's forest resource is to lead to the acquisition of a match factory from China. Wood is to be used in exchange for the construction of this factory.

To help pay for some of these things that have been acquired to enhance national development will require increased production at the lowest possible cost. In every Guyanese industry there is unused capacity and this represents a loss in productive capacity.

Production of the major exports is doing well. Sugar has surpassed its first crop target and rice appears to be heading for the target.

These targets, however, have been set according to the available machinery. Some of the pieces of equipment in the sugar industry are as much as 30 years old and need constant repairs. However, in some industries where set targets are met there could be greater production.

Land preparation equipment and adequate facilities for reaping the crop are among the limiting factors in the rice industry. Provision of equipment to satisfy these areas will lead to higher targets being set. This will pave the way for Guyana to buy yet more

equipment for national development.

Government is in the process of decentralising the public service in an effort to ensure there is adequate personnel in the productive locations.

As the Comrade Leader predicts and as the Comrade Deputy Leader contends 1985 will be both historic and shining if the masses are fully involved in production.

Danger of Complacency

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 19 May 85 p 2

[Text] The performance of the membership of the People's National Congress should be excellent "in absolute terms." The Party must not be satisfied with the results it currently gets.

These views were among those expressed by the leadership of the Party during the recent General Council meeting. The leadership was examining the relationship between the Party and the masses.

Leader of our Party Cde Forbes Burnham noted that the PNC has done much for Guyana. But to rest on those achievements would be to stagnate and eventually to retrogress.

There is the tendency of some Party cadres to be satisfied with the achievements of the Party. This tendency is probably due to the fact that the People's National Congress has been faced with "a propagandist" opposition rather than a vibrant political opposition.

The People's National Congress has great potential for organisation and mobilisation because of its studied role in the development of Guyana.

There are those who seek to criticise the policy of Party paramountcy contending that the Party should be separate and distinct from the state. However, it should be recognised that the state machinery comes out of the Party and it is the Party that enunciates the policy the Government must follow.

But even as the critics and others in the propagandist opposition level their charges they should realise that the People's National Congress enjoys the basic support of the masses.

No amount of mobilisation could have produced the result seen at the major national events without the basic support of the masses. Mashramani celebrations this year have been mass-based and so enjoyed the popular support of the Guyanese people.

The massive People's Parades, the successful May Day rallies and the annual flag-raising events to commemorate the anniversary of the Co-operative Republic attracted such crowds that the so-called opposition quaked in their boots.

As Cde Leader urges, Party cadres should not be satisfied with merely being better than the opposition, rather they should aim at mobilising all of Guyana under the banner of the People's National Congress.

CSO: 3298/795

GUYANA

PNC OFFICIALS MEET PUBLIC; 'FOOT-DRAGGING' CRITICIZED

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 May 85 p 2

[Text] **CENTRAL Executive Member and Minister of Forestry, Cde Sallahuddin has hkt out at the "callousness" and undue "foot-dragging" by employees in the public sector in relation to dealing with members of the public in the regions and at the centre.**

Cde Sallahuddin made these observations after a meet the public meeting he conducted two Fridays ago at the D'Urban Street District Office of the People's National Congress. At these meetings members of the public meet with senior PNC officials to discuss issues affecting them.

The Minister said, "People are anxious to meet the decision-makers to tell of things which can be developmental, to benefit the whole society. At times the information contains material important to national security."

Cde Sallahuddin expressed great dismay about the attitude of public service operatives who allow issues which can be solved almost instantly, to run on for years, "resulting in frustration and the slowing

of national development programmes."

He cited some cases that were brought to his attention at his recent D'Urban Street meeting to illustrate his observations. The first case was a woman whose husband was a soldier in the Guyana Defence Force and who died in April 1982 while performing his duties. This widow has not been able to draw on benefits accrued in contributory pension schemes by the husband.

The second case involved an accident in September 1981 involving a Police vehicle and a privately owned car. The Police had undertaken to repair the vehicle, but to date no such action has been taken.

Cde Sallahuddin said that his personal impression was that there were very "weak procedures in Government Ministries and Corporations" to allow such issues to run for so long. There is "a certain amount of callousness on the part of the operatives," he added.

He, however, observed with some amount of satisfaction, the high percentage of non-PNC members who attended the meeting to discuss their problems and to give in-

telligence reports or to share views on matters of interest to the communities in which they live: and that the nation as a whole.

Cde Sallahuddin said that more than 30 people were interviewed and at least 20 were non-members of the PNC.

"I did not ask if they were members but it came out in their discussions. I think this is a very healthy sign and testifies to the fact that the PNC is a people's Party and people from all walks of life can find solace in it."

GUYANA

DEBATE ON NEW SECURITY BILL STALLED AT PPP REQUEST

Action in Parliament

Georgetown MIRROR in English 26 May 85 p 1

[Text] The National Assembly met for less than 10 minutes on Thursday last when the second reading of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill 1985 was the sole item on the agenda for debate.

Parliamentarians entering the compound of the Public Buildings were met by a large picket line with slogans denouncing the National Security Bill. A double row of placard-carrying demonstrators composed of members of the People's Progressive Party and member-unions of the TUC--CCWU, NAACIE and GAWU--carried slogans reading:--"Down with national security bill: national security bill violates human rights: we want democracy not detention: we want jobs, food democracy not national security: national security bill means detention without trial arrest the PNC bill". Also on the picket line were 3 PPP Parliamentarians, Isahak Basir, Cyril Belgrave and Janet Jagan:

In the National Assembly the Minister of Home Affairs announced that the second reading (when the debate takes place) of the National Security Bill would be deferred to the next sitting, which was fixed for June 24 next. A request for this had been made by the Leader of the Opposition.

The National Security Bill is seeking to widen the powers of the state in security matters giving powers of detention without trial in order, the Bill says, to prevent any person "from acting in any manner likely to cause the subversion of democratic institutions in Guyana".

In Section 12(1) which reads, in connection with reasons for detention, "with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to public safety or public order or the defence of Guyana", these words are being added to that sentence--"or for the purpose of preventing him from acting in any manner likely to cause the subversion of democratic institutions in Guyana".

These changes are considered as intentions to extending the powers of the National Security Act, to widen the net for possible detentions. The PPP has expressed its deep concern about the Bill and has noted that its members have always noted that its members have always been the victims of such repressive laws. The PPP, two times in 1953 and again in 1964-65, has suffered the effects

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of laws permitting detention without trial. It is believed that on this occasion, the National Security Bill is aimed at intimidating leading trade unionists who have defied the ruling party.

Before the brief session of Parliament concluded, Opposition Leader Cheddi Jagan got agreement for a motion to be heard at the next sitting of the National Assembly which condemns the US Government for imposing sanctions on Nicaragua and calls on the Guyana Government to give all-round support to the government and people of Nicaragua. The motion also seeks to inform the United Nations Secretary General of the grave dangers posed to the Region by the United States' actions.

Eleven and a half months ago, Dr. Jagan had sent a motion to the National Assembly asking that body to call on the US to abstain from all further acts of violation of the sovereignty and political independence of Nicaragua. Notice of that motion was finally published on Thursday last.

[Editor's Note: The Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE of 24 May 1985, page 1, also reported the postponement of the reading of the bill "after representation by Leader of the Minority People's Progressive Party (PPP) Dr Cheddi Jagan." The item appeared under the headline "Security Bill Postponed at Jagan's Request."]

WPA Organ's Criticism

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 25 May 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] A "Catch All" Law

According to GBC news the National Assembly on Thursday of this week postponed its sitting. At this session the Home Affairs Minister was to be given new powers of detention.

Bill No 8 of 1985 tabled in Parliament last week is what is called a "catch all" law.

If they can't claim a person is a danger to "public safety, public order or the defence of Guyana", they will claim that the person is "likely to subvert democratic institutions".

To 'Subvert' Means to Undermine

This new law which is now to be debated on June 24 is to prevent "subversion of democratic institutions" in Guyana.

Since the law does not say what is "subversion" and what is a "democratic institution" they are free to call any and everything "subversion of a democratic institution".

To ask questions about the so-called People's Cooperative Units, as the WPA is doing in and out of court, could be described by them as "subversion of a democratic institution".

In Article 50 of the Constitution, the President is one of the five "Supreme Organs of Democratic Power". Under this new law to be passed, any citizen making criticisms of Mr Burnham can be detained (locked up) for up to three months by the Minister of Home Affairs.

This is no joke. In a country where cars are arrested for carrying wheat flour, anything is possible.

This is the joke: Under the 1980 Constitution, Article 50, there are five "Supreme Organs of Democratic Power"--the Parliament, the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs, the Supreme Congress of the People, the Cabinet and the President.

Any Democratic Custom is a Democratic Institution

Any democratic custom is a democratic institution. Many of the democratic institutions of the Guyanese people were mortally wounded after the PNC took power.

When Mr. Burnham became Prime Minister in 1965, and in 1966 he became Prime Minister of independent Guyana--the head of government could be taken to court on an election petition. A voter could ask the court to declare the seat of any elected member vacant or he could ask the court to declare that the election was bad.

Mr. Burnham put an end to that democratic institution.

The head of the government of Guyana is not subject to any election petition. You can go to the Court of Appeal and argue that he is not qualified to be elected, but you can't go to court and argue that his election was unfair, or corrupt.

The court cannot cannot hear such an argument. The law does not allow it.

More Powers to Them

Nowhere in the Commonwealth Caribbean has any set of rulers given themselves as much power as this lot.

Nowhere in the Commonwealth Caribbean have the democratic institutions of the people been so trampled by the rulers.

Now they are giving themselves new powers to lock up people on the grounds that these people are undermining democratic institutions.

No powers were used to protect people from bandits, but powers are being found to protect the rulers from their fears.

CSO: 3298/795

22 July 1985

GUYANA

CUBA'S CASTRO HAILS GUYANA'S INDEPENDENCE, CLOSE TIES

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 26 May 85 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba has expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between Guyana and Cuba and has reiterated his wishes that these relations be strengthened.

His satisfaction was expressed in a message to President Forbes Burnham on the occasion of Guyana's 19th anniversary of Independence.

Cde. Castro's message was one of several received by the President. Among the other well-wishers are President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands and Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah of Brunei.

In his message, sent with his "highest consideration and esteem", Cde. Castro wrote:

"To mark the 19th anniversary of the Independence of Guyana, I wish to send to you, and through you, to the people and Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the fraternal felicitations of the people and the Government of the Republic of Cuba.

"On this occasion, we note that the ties between Guyana and Cuba continue to strengthen. This is reinforced by the results of the 10th session of the joint Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical collaboration.

"In expressing our satisfaction with the development of these ties, I reiterate our wishes that these will be strengthened and I express my confidence that we will continue to work together in the struggle in defence of the right of independence and sovereignty, the full exercise of self-determination of our peoples, for a just and equitable New International Economic Order, for social progress and for peace for all peoples."

CSO: 3298/796

GUYANA

PNC ORGAN ASSAILS U. S. POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 19 May 85 p 5

[Text] WHILE the slaughter of Blacks has been intensified into daily atrocities committed by the white minority oppressors in apartheid South Africa, the voices in many countries, including the United States, are also intensifying the atrocities and denouncing the system of apartheid. However, there are others who encourage support for the apartheid regime. One supporter is the US Under-Secretary of State.

shores of New England. According to illogical and warped thinking of the Under-Secretary, the persecution of the Pilgrim Fathers was right and the Pilgrim Fathers themselves were wrong to resist the British might.

Perhaps the Under Secretary is really implying that whatever Whites do is always right and it is wrong for Blacks to resist Whites even in the interest of their freedom.

A recent report from Washington quotes the Under-Secretary as saying that the United States is right to support apartheid South Africa.

Since, as he claims, the United States Administration is right to support the apartheid regime, it is also right for the US administration to send military equipment to South Africa for killing Blacks. It is also right to aid the apartheid regime in its war against the freedom fighters in Southern Africa.

Right for the US is might, but as history has proven might invariably succumbs to the inevitable triumph of right.

The United States itself came into existence as the "Thirteen Colonies" when the Pilgrim Fathers ran away from might and established a new home on the bleak

CSO: 3298/796

GUYANA

PEOPLE'S MILITIA PLANS TO INCREASE OFFICER RESERVE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Jun 85 p 3

[Article by Trevor Pearson: "GPM To Strengthen Corps of Reserve Officers"]

[Text] The Guyana People's Militia [GPM] intends to increase the number of Reserve Officers in order to have persons responsible for commanding sub-units which have already been established, GPM's Staff Officer for Operations and Training, Captain Lawrence Paul has said.

Capt. Paul noted that at the moment there is a great need particularly for female officers to command female sub-units.

The GPM is the Reserve Unit of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) and supports the GDF in its functions. Its Reserve Officers are involved in military training, seminars, conferences, parades, field exercises and administering of junior soldiers on a part-time basis.

In an interview with the GUYANA NEWS AGENCY, the GPM's Training Officer pointed out that of 36 Reserve Commissioned Officers there is only one female.

However, he added, prospects for the future seem brighter since there are six female Cadet Officers in the present batch of Reserve Officers.

Three batches of Reserve Officers have been commissioned after undergoing training at the GPM Training Base at Seweyo on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway.

The GPM is now seeking applicants for the fifth batch of Reserve Officer Cadets.

Reserve Officers are required to undergo one year's training comprised of two two-week courses and one weekend each month.

However, Captain Paul said that some Officer Cadets, especially those living far away from the Training Base and those living in the hinterland regions, are given special concessions during training sessions.

According to the GPM Officer, the Reserve Officers, who enjoy the same privileges as a Regular Officer, are professional persons including doctors,

nurses, teachers, clerks, journalists and managers and they come from both the government and private agencies.

Discussing the response from employers to the granting of time-off, Captain Paul observed that the level of co-operation has been heartening recently as employers appreciate the reasons behind the implementation of the programme.

CSO: 3298/817

GUYANA

CHANGES IN POLICE FORCE PERSONNEL, POLICY CITED

New Components

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 May 85 p 1

[Article by Albert Alstrom: "Police Force Restructured...For Greater Effectiveness, Efficiency"]

[Text] The Guyana Police Force has been re-organised and restructured to make it more effective and in keeping with progressive changes.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner of Police, Cde. Balram Raghubir yesterday--days after Minister of Home Affairs, Cde. Jeffrey Thomas had spoken of the changes at the Police Officers' Conference last week.

The CHRONICLE learnt that legislation is to be introduced shortly to put the Police Service on a new path to better serve the community.

Two new Departments have been established and two Divisions have been upgraded within the establishment.

The Divisions that have been upgraded are East Coast, Demerara, and the West Demerara. An Assistant Commissioner of Police is to be appointed to the West Demerara Division. Assistant Commissioner of Police Alvin Smith is already at the East Coast, Demerara Division.

There is a new structure in the hierarchy but the Commissioner maintains the overall responsibility for the Force.

Deputy Commissioner Cecil "Skip" Roberts now heads "D" Department and will be responsible for Law Enforcement.

Deputy Commissioner Laurie Lewis is now responsible for Research and Organisation.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Godfrey heads the Presidential Guards.

Assistant Commissioner Elaine Harper heads Administration.

Assistant Commissioner Ronald Fraser will be in charge of "B and C" Departments (Finance and Stores) and Assistant Commissioner Joe Sam will be in charge of "E and F" Departments and will be responsible for Operations.

Assistant Commissioner Joe Beckles heads "H" Department and will be responsible for Security and Immigration.

Assistant Commissioner Frank Armstrong continues to be in charge of the interior.

Cde. Sultan Kassim has been promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Minister Thomas, in his address to the Police Officers disclosed that over the past six months the services of a number of officers and other ranks were terminated "in the public interest."

And, a number of recommendations, in relation to the filling of vacancies, are to be put up to the Police Service Commission.

Attention is also being paid to promotion among the other ranks.

The whole exercise is aimed at making the Service more effective and efficient.

Outside Recruiting

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Jun 85 p 8

[Text] The Guyana Police Force is to intensify its programme for recruiting cadets from outside of the Force, Minister of Home Affairs Jeffrey Thomas has announced.

The move is aimed at providing the Force with the best personnel in an effort to make the Service more efficient.

Speaking at the recent Police Officers' Conference, Cde Thomas said he recognised that there had always been resistance to cadets joining the Service from outside of the Force. That resistance was perhaps because of efforts to protect the Service and not allow it to be infiltrated.

He was happy, however, that there was an agreement for the administration of the Force to intensify its programme and recruit cadets from outside of the Force at the Officers' level.

The Minister advised that efforts be made to recruit young, enthusiastic people with specialised skills who can make a contribution to the Service and to the country.

He urged officers not to forget that conditions of service must influence people's work and at the same time their efficiency.

While people tended to associate conditions of service with the salary they receive, he did not believe that such a comparison was applicable to the Force, given the fact that the Police are called upon to work 24 hours per day.

The Minister advised that there was need to keep in focus the necessity of providing the facilities and organising the conditions which would produce a better policeman, a Police Officer and hence, a better community.

CSO: 3298/817

GUYANA

RICE GROWERS UNDER PRESSURE TO IMPROVE CULTIVATION

Arrival of Fertilizer

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Text] The Guyana National Trading Corporation yesterday received 51 880 bags of urea fertiliser valued at \$2,16 million--the first of two shipments of this agro-chemical for use in the rice industry.

This nitrogenous fertiliser will be used by rice farmers in the cultivation of the second rice crop from which a bumper yield is expected as 130 500 acres are to be planted.

Guyana Rice Board General Manager, Leon Dundas, said recently that the Abary area of the MMA scheme will be putting large tracts of land under cultivation for this crop and especially high yields are expected from this land which is benefiting from a new drainage and irrigation system.

According to a GNTC release yesterday, arrangements have already been made for coastal vessels to ship supplies of the urea directly from the delivery ship in Georgetown to Anna Regina in Region Two and Corriverton and Region Six.

The release said that adequate supplies are expected to be in the various regions by weekend.

This expeditious move to get the fertiliser to the rice-growing areas stems from the fact that more than 66 000 acres for the second crop have already been ploughed although some farmers are now finishing off harvesting of the first crop.

In spite of the land preparation for the first crop being unsatisfactory due to late harvesting of the 1984 second crop, in adverse weather some of the yields recorded after reaping of more than 80 per cent were 26 and 24 bags per acre, Cde Dundas said.

Meanwhile, GNTC's Executive Director Vibert Parvatan said there would be no change in the selling prices for the urea at either wholesale or retail levels.

The retail price to farmers will be held at \$73,27 for a 50-kilo bag, the release said.

Warning to Lease-Holders

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 May 85 pp 4-5

[Text]

CHAIRMAN of Region Five, Cde Barkat Ally has warned lease-holders of rice lands that if all these lands are not put under cultivation for the 1985 second crop their leases could be cancelled.

Cde Ally's warning earlier this week was prompted by the fact that only 19 000 acres have been put under cultivation for this crop although the target for the Region is 50 000 acres.

And, moving through West Coast, Berbice, he found that thousands of acres have not been under the plough for a number of years.

West Berbice includes the Mahalica-Mahalicony-Abary area which has already begun to benefit from extensive drainage and irrigation works implemented by Government.

The Regional Chairman made it clear that the land was allocated to farmers for

production, and noted that the continued land development works there are costing the Government and the region a lot of money.

He indicated that high agricultural production, especially from rice, is therefore expected.

Cde Ally observed that as a result of the drainage and irrigation works in the area, farmers there do not have to await rainfall for land preparation and broadcasting

of seeds, as water is always available in the main and branch canals, and lands can be flooded at will. He urged farmers to put every available acre under cultivation.

And, the Executive Committee of the MMA Agricultural Development Authority met recently and decided that there will be no increase in land rates for this year although the cost of maintaining the drainage and irrigation systems has risen steeply.

Such expenses are normally recovered from land rates, but to do so this year it meant that charges would have been increased by 20 per cent over that of 1984.

The Authority decided that the consequent shortfall in revenue would be met by internally generated funds.

CSO: 3298/796

GUYANA

BRIEFS

POLLYDORE ON SUBVERSION--General Secretary of the Guyana Trades Union Congress, Joseph Pollydore, has pledged to oppose any move by international organisations to destabilise the country or subvert the Government. Addressing the eleventh Biennial Conference of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union (AT&GWU) last Saturday, Cde. Pollydore, also the union's Executive Secretary, reportedly said he would be the first to reject such action and bring it to the attention of the Government. The TUC General Secretary, who holds important posts in international trades union organisations, said that financial assistance could come from any source. And he reminded his audience at the Critchlow Labour College of the days when assistance used to come with 'no strings attached' from the American Institute for Free Labour Development (AIFLD). Cde. Pollydore also retraced some of the enjoyable periods of his life, citing his 25 years of service to the then Transport Workers' Union and called on trade unionists to keep close to their members. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 May 85 p 1]

PRC AID--Anna Regina, Essequibo, (GNA-GIS)--A biogas digester at Onderneeming on the Essequibo Coast was commissioned by Energy and Mines Minister Harun Rashid last week Saturday. The digester was built with Chinese assistance. And, at the commissioning ceremony, Cde Rashid spoke of the need for developing countries to help each other. Chinese Ambassador Ni Zhengjian who was also present at the ceremony, said that he was extremely pleased that Guyanese technicians have mastered the art of constructing the biogas digester. He said his Government supported the transfer of technology among developing countries. And Cde Joe Singh, Director-General of the Guyana National Service urged members of the New Opportunity Corps at Onderneeming to take good care of the digester to ensure that maintenance is done frequently. The biogas digester was the first to be built in Region Two, and also the first on a Guyana National Service site. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jun 85 p 8]

RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY--Guyana and Uruguay have agreed to proceed with the appointment of Non-Resident Ambassadors to each other's capitals. This agreement was reached during consultations between Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson and his Uruguayan counterpart Enrique Iglesias. The two Foreign Ministers met in Port-of-Spain during the just concluded session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). Uruguay is a South American Republic bordered by Argentina in the west and Brazil in the north.

A joint communique signed by Cde Jackson and the Uruguayan Foreign Minister said the two countries had exchanged notes at the end of the consultations on the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. "Both countries reaffirmed their adherence to the principles of the character of the United Nations and agreed to proceed to the appointment of Non-Resident Ambassadors," the communique said. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Jun 85 p 1]

AIRSTRIp COMPLETION--The first flight of a heavier type aircraft into the upgraded Lethem Airstrip was made Thursday. After the flight, the pilot of the Guyana Airways Corporation DC 6 aircraft was quoted as saying the landing at the newly extended and upgraded airstrip was "perfect." The 80,000-pound aircraft took into Lethem a cargo of bitumen and fuel consigned to the Civil Aviation Department. The material is for further work on the airstrip, which is seen as being of great importance to economic development of the vast Rupununi area. Although the airstrip can be used by aircraft, including heavier types such as the DC 6 which made its first flight to the strip Thursday, additional layers of bitumen are still to be added to the surface. The final phase of development at the Lethem airstrip will commence in September. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jun 85 p 5]

TRAINING IN USSR--Two Guyanese who pursued degree programmes in History and Economics respectively at the Patrice Lumumba People's Friendship University, Moscow, are back home after six years. The Guyanese, Cde. Avril Bacchus and Cde. Keith Vankenik left Guyana to pursue their studies in 1979. At present they are attached to the Secretariat of the Party. Avril majored in History while Keith majored in Economics. In addition to obtaining their Masters' Avril followed a one-year journalism course and also qualified as an interpreter of the Russian language into English. Prior to leaving for the Soviet Union she was a lecturer at the Cuffy Ideological Institute while Keith worked at the Ministry of Agriculture. In the Soviet Union both Avril and Keith were members of the vibrant PNC Special group in Moscow. In fact, on many occasions they functioned as resource personnel at functions involving non-Party students on the campus. Avril explained that the Party group in Moscow comprises not only students but members of the Guyana Embassy staff. The group provides forums for discussing national and international issues which affect Guyana. [Excerpt] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 2 Jun 85 p 1]

DPRK MINING PROJECT--Georgetown, 11 Jun--Guyana and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) today finalised a joint venture project under which the two countries will carry out gold mining operations in the mineral-rich Essequibo region, a Guyana Government spokesman said. Final talks were held here between senior officials of Guyana's Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC) and a three-member team headed by Korea's vice-minister for trade, Kim Ha-Chong, the spokesman said. The visit follows closely upon the second meeting of the Guyana-Korea Joint Commission in Pyongyang at which the two sides agreed on Korean assistance with a hydro-power project at Eclipse Falls in the Essequibo region--an area claimed by neighbouring Venezuela. The equipment Korea is providing for the project--including excavators and bulldozers--is due here later this year and a team of

Korean technicians is expected by September to complete the technical design of the project and finalise construction arrangements. Officials here have said that the two sides also examined the possibility of establishing a joint shipping company and cooperation in the construction of a 1,000-hectare irrigation project at Abary, 48 miles east of Georgetown. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1640 GMT 12 Jun 85 FL]

CSO: 3298/818

JAMAICA

LOCAL-GOVERNMENT DISPUTE SPARKS ISLAND-WIDE PROTESTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Jun 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS staged a one-day islandwide demonstration yesterday to draw public attention to their dispute with the Ministry of Local Government over the reconstruction of the local authorities.

Although the demonstration was widely supported it had no serious effect on any of the local services and differed in form from place to place. Reports from correspondents and other sources suggested that most parishes were affected in some way or the other, but the workers gave various reasons for demonstrating and some went back to work earlier than others.

The areas mainly affected were public cleansing and public health services, the fire service, markets,

infirmaries and other poor relief services. But areas such as children's homes were not affected.

The demonstration was called by the Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers (JALGO), which claims to represent some 90% of the over-5,000 unionised Local Government employees.

JALGO's General Secretary, Mr. E. Lloyd Taylor, told the Gleaner yesterday: "It is just a one-day demonstration. Tomorrow we will resume normality. But what the union has done is to bring forcibly to the attention of the Government and the people, the manner in which the Minister is carrying out his policies.

There is complete disregard for workers, discourtesy is shown to the union and what he is doing is virtually destroying Local Government."

Mr. Taylor said the union hoped the demonstration would encourage the Government to call in the workers' representatives and have negotiations on the restructuring programme.

Firemen throughout the island, who are also to be affected by the reconstruction, informed their superiors that they would only be answering calls. The Gleaner checked with the KSAC Fire Service and was told that cooks and janitors at various stations had stopped working for payments in lieu of outstanding uniforms, while the firemen said that their demonstration would go on until 4 p.m. and was in protest against the lack of equipment and fire units.

Following are reports from some correspondents:

St. Catherine Reporter

More than 500 workers in the St. Catherine Parish Council in Spanish Town began a demonstration this morning. From the Public Cleansing, Roads and Works, Water Supply and Markets Departments as well as the Infirmary, the workers say they are

protesting impending lay-offs and divestment of certain departments such as public cleansing to private contractors.

Their placards said such things as "Is this the end of local government?" "Local Government must stop harass the workers with lay-offs and redundancies," "A man without a job is dead".

Four Paths, Cn., June 3 (From our correspondent);

Over 1,000 workers from eight departments of the Clarendon Parish Council went on a protest demonstration this morning from 7 a.m. to protest against the impending redundancy of workers.

Port Morant, S.T., June 3 (From our correspondent):

Workers employed to the St. Thomas Parish Council are restive over their fate when some of the services being performed by them are handed over to the various ministries. After a short meeting with their union, JALGO, this morning some of them went on sick-out while those at the Morant Bay Infirmary have gone on strike.

There are signs posted outside the Parish Council building saying "Sorry, on sick-out", "A how we a go survive, we back in chains", "How will our children go to school?"

The workers at the infirmary who are on strike are picketing the gate. A spokesman for the workers said they were striking for back pay, uniform allowances and the removal of the present matron at the infirmary. Efforts to contact the matron have been futile.

Mandeville, Mr., June 3 (From our correspondent):

Workers at the Manchester Parish Council demonstrated outside the Parish Council office early this morning against what they say is "impending lay-offs and redundancy of staff at the Council".

Firemen said they would respond to fire calls but would not perform their other regular duties.

The JALGO representative said the workers would return to work after three hours but no work would be done for the rest of the day. One of the placards read "Redundancy cannot send our children to school."

JAMAICA

CARL STONE ASSESSES SEAGA'S ROLE IN ELECTIONS ROW

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jun 85 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text] Even his greatest political enemies would have to admit that Mr. Seaga is one of the most cunning political strategists this country has produced. But it is precisely his excess of cunning and seeming ruthlessness in orchestrating political manoeuvres in the case of the 1983 elections and his recent moves on Local Government elections which have raised great doubts about the ethics of his management of power.

The late Justice Uriah Parnell was the first high ranking public official to publicly chastise Mr. Seaga for violating parliamentary convention in failing to give the opposition party a reasonable time period to get itself prepared for an election.

Our Governor General has recently added his voice to that of the late Mr. Parnell at a time when the opposition PNP is demanding elections to set right the questionable circumstances under which the JLP was re-elected in 1983.

The Governor General's statement was a clear expression of concern over what is emerging in the country as a political crisis of confidence and legitimacy in respect of Mr. Seaga's government.

Adverse public opinion reactions and some pressures within his own party induced Mr. Seaga to back off from his decision to unilaterally change Local Government boundaries by procedures that contravened the spirit of the electoral reform legislation.

Two choices

The parties seem to be quite some distance from any compromise or consensus on what the revised numbers of Local Government seats should be. Even if an agreement could be reached, there would simply not be enough time to sort out the minute details on individual divisional boundaries which would have to be done before an election could be organised on the basis of such a change. Such a process would require several months to straighten out.

The two choices we face is whether to have the local election on the basis of the old boundaries, but subject to changes that will come when new boundaries are worked out, or to delay the elections until an agreement is reached and new boundaries are set.

Clearly if the former were done, new elections would have to be held in the future to change over to the new boundaries.

The PNP is agitating for an early contest and threatening political protests if that does not materialise. The JLP on the other hand is stalling and seeking to delay the elections as long as possible.

JLP fears are quite obvious. The Government is now quite unpopular. It has recently imposed some cost of living increases that have aroused great anger and anguish across the country. This is clearly not a favourable moment for the JLP to go into any election contest. If the local elections end up with a large PNP majority, the Seaga government's credibility will be seriously challenged, especially at a time when Mr.

Seaga's overseas financial backers are beginning to doubt his ability to achieve any economic recovery here and are likely to be scaling down the level of foreign aid to his government.

The party disagreements over elections could become a serious source of political divisions in the country at a time when we need to be devoting our energies to dealing with our major economic problems.

Unacceptable

After the various experiences with Mr. Seaga's cunning ways, some inside the PNP have given thought to the prospect of a sudden snap election in which the JLP could again try to gain an unfair advantage by the timing of its election call.

While there is clearly nothing wrong with the element of surprise, we hope that Mr. Seaga does not again violate parliamentary conventions in the lead time he gives the opposition party to get itself prepared for any more elections.

Mr. Seaga's earlier legalistic defences of his 1983 election call are most unacceptable and unworthy of a party leader who must surely know that parliamentary government rests on more than just legalism and demands a minimal degree of trust that rules of the game will be respected.

While I accept the wisdom of the Governor General's suggestion about the need to insert some time constraint on the governing party's ability to call a snap election, it is surely a sign of political weakness if our political leaders cannot be trusted to abide by reasonable conventions that guarantee fairplay in elections.

Most people in the country don't wish to see any political disturbances over elections. The police handling of the Cross Roads affair has left many activists in the PNP angry and determined to take to the streets.

There is an increasing feeling within PNP circles that Mr. Seaga only responds to power and pressure and that it is only by massive and disruptive protest action that he is likely to agree to having any election (local or general) either in 1985 or 1986.

'Do the right thing'

In the national interest Mr. Seaga should set aside his usual political cunning, stubbornness and propensity for political manoeuvres and do the right thing by authorising the local elections on the old boundaries, subject to the changes that will come later when the parties agree on how many divisions there should be and what those boundaries ought to be. The plan to pay councillors should therefore be put in abeyance until the new arrangements are agreed on.

It cannot be in the interests of democracy for a governing party to be constantly postponing local elections because of fears that if and when those elections are held it is likely to be badly defeated. Some

constitutional limits need to be set on the circumstances under which such elections can be delayed as what has been happening is nothing short of an irresponsible manipulation of power to serve party interests.

There is a point beyond which cunning and political manoeuvres become self-defeating and the JLP under Seaga has certainly gone beyond that point in its management of electoral matters.

The impasse over elections and the various suggestions for constitutional changes raise the larger issue of whether this country does not need to set up a committee of persons representing all the political points of view and the constitutional experts to thoroughly review how our constitution and political system have worked since independence and to make recommendations for reforms. Such a committee could well encourage citizens to come forward with ideas for such revisions and changes and conduct meetings with the public all over the island.

One possible and important benefit would be that it would provide for national education on our constitution and on the basic elements and principles of our democracy. There is much ignorance on these matters and so much of the principles on which our political system rests often get buried in the heat of political battles between the parties.

Our Governor General needs to go one step further beyond his public criticism of Mr. Seaga's 1983 election call. He needs to try to convince the government and the opposition to agree on setting up some machinery

to review our political and constitutional arrangements so that we can iron out the flaws, insert improvements and change and modify those areas of the system that need to be changed to deepen democracy, increase accountability to the people and improve the workings of our democratic system.

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

END TO POSTAL STRIKE--Postmen at the Post and Telegraph Office in Kingston resumed work yesterday responding to the request from the Minister of Labour, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, that they resume work and allow him to discuss with them the dispute over payments for uniforms at the Ministry today. Mr. Smith had said last week that he would meet the four unions representing the postmen--BITU, NWU, TUC, and UJ--at a meeting at the Ministry of Labour at 12.30 p.m. today to try and arrive at an amicable solution to the dispute. Attached to the Minister's proposal was the condition that the postmen resume by midday yesterday. Following a meeting with their unions the postmen resumed work at about midday. They had been on strike since May 21 demanding immediate payment of outstanding monies in lieu of uniforms for the period 1980-1983. The Ministry of Finance had said that the payments could not be made before July 12. The strike seriously affected the mail service as only registered mails were being sorted and dispatched from the office up to last week Wednesday when the Army was called in to sort and dispatch. The soldiers were withdrawn yesterday following the resumption. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Jun 85 p 1]

FRG AID TO POLICE--An agreement for continued technical aid to the Ministry of National Security was signed by the West German Federal Government and the Government of Jamaica on Thursday. This will allow for further upgrading of vehicles in the Police Force. Under a Technical Aid Programme signed with Germany in 1983, the police force received 44 Granada motorcars. A shipment of spare parts was also received for units in the Constabulary Force's fleet of motor vehicles. Signing the agreement for continued aid on behalf of the Government of Jamaica was the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding. Assisting were the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Herman Ricketts, and the Permanent Secretaries in the Ministry, Mrs. Clare Kean and Mr. M.D. Marsh. Signing for the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany were the Director in the German Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Security, Dr. Rolf Shaefer; a senior officer in the Ministry, Mr. Gunter Heckmann; and the Charge d'Affaires in the German Embassy in Kingston, Mr. Hermann Erath, a JAMPRESS release said. The signing took place at the Ministry of National Security in Kingston. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jun 85 p 17]

CSO: 3298/797

MEXICO

CHURCH SPOKESMAN CRITICIZES OPPOSITION AS WEAK, DIVISIVE

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Jun 85 pp 1, 7

[Article by Teresa Gil]

[Excerpt] The Mexican Catholic Church wants a strong opposition that can offset the government's excessive power and offer real solutions to the crisis. Opposition parties, however, are not meeting their obligations as civic institutions and, on the contrary, are creating rifts in the national body politic. The above comments were made by Francisco Ramirez Meza, the episcopate's director of communications, during the Catholic Church's most solemn celebration, Corpus Christi, at which Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada singled out unity and sacrifice as the central points of the Eucharist and called for faith and dedication to resolve current problems.

Ramirez Meza made public the bishopric's views on the budget cuts and asked that the neediest not be made to bear the brunt of the sacrifice after the meager wage increase that was given to workers, an increase "that represents almost nothing." He also spoke of our dependence on the United States, which, he argued, has not stopped many of our public officials from still talking about our independence and sovereignty. He said that the country was in the adolescence of its underdevelopment, while other nations, such as in Central America, are in their infancy.

Speaking in the sacristy of a cathedral filled with the faithful and their children carrying small crates, Ramirez Meza, the senior spokesman of the Mexican Episcopal Conference, harshly criticized the parties that are not fulfilling their mission and that are just criticizing without offering solutions. There are tremendous divisions between the parties that oppose the government, which prevents them from being a force that can truly offset the great power that resides in a single man, he indicated.

He came out in favor of a true multiparty system in which such organizations raise the political awareness of and benefit the people who subsidize them. "I am not referring, of course, to the sort of party system that exists in the United States, where a power group appoints the president," he asserted.

MEXICO

LONGTIME DURANGO PAN ACTIVIST SEES DECAY WITHIN PARTY RANKS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Jun 85 States section pp 1, 4

[Article by Salvador Nava]

[Text] Durango, Durango, 7 Jun--Juan Esteban Sanchez Cassio, "a staunch, lifelong PAN [National Action Party] supporter" and the main strategist in the election campaign that brought PAN candidate Rodolfo Elizondo victory in the race for mayor of Durango, has described PAN as divided and marred by opportunism, corruption, nepotism, bossism and the abandonment of its ideological principles.

Sanchez Cassio, who describes himself as "an active, militant member of PAN since the party's lean days," denounced PAN's current leaders, adding that "we, the real members of PAN, want to make the party a vehicle for improving the living conditions of the Mexican people. We are not after paid positions; we are not interested in being officials, and we don't want our party to become just the spoils of a few wealthy families."

As evidence of the crisis enveloping PAN in Durango, Sanchez Cassio accused the chairman of the Regional Committee, Federico Ling Altamirano, of "holding back the campaigns of the candidates for federal deputy, Joel Rosas and Fermin Nunez." He explained: "Ling, who is a multi-member district federal deputy candidate, knows that if the single-member district federal deputy candidates win, he will not make it to Congress. In other words, if Fermin and Joel win, Ling will not be a deputy. And if Ling makes deputy, it will be due to the defeat of Fermin and Joel."

Sanchez Cassio made his unusual charges on a television program and during a subsequent press interview said that under its current regional leadership PAN in Durango is seeking to attract "fanatical voters" through its criticisms of the government but without offering real alternatives or workable programs.

"I appeal to these fanatical voters to reflect, before they cast their ballots, on the interests represented by PAN's candidates for deputy in this state: Joel Rosas and Fermin Nunez, two sons of the wealthiest families in the city," he said.

"I want the people to win, but the people win only when they are offered choices. What choice does Fermin Nunez represent, a rich man who has fallen on hard times because he wasted his inheritance on bad business deals? What can the people expect from a man like Joel Rosas, who as a candidate is avoiding a political confrontation. If they were to win, they would become part of the domesticated opposition that waits for instructions before speaking out..." he charged.

Categorical in his assertions, the burly Sanchez Cassio possesses great political acumen. "I cannot conceive of a PAN member who just points out mistakes and fails to offer solutions. I cannot agree with a fellow like Ling (the engineer who is PAN's state leader), who already served without distinction as a deputy during the 51st legislative session, just like his brother Alberto, who is a member of the current session. I don't understand a deputy like Enrique Sanchez Espinosa, who is so colorless and lackluster that no one speaks either well or ill of him and who was sent to us in Durango as a present."

Accusation Plus Evidence

The man who ran the campaign that carried Rodolfo Elizondo and PAN to victory in the Durango municipal elections almost 2 years ago describes Elizondo now as "a domineering local boss surrounded by a coterie of opportunists without experience or principles, who like Rosas and Elizondo are seeking deputy seats as if they were titles of nobility to enhance their families' prestige."

He went on to say: "Nothing remains now of that unaffected, charismatic, candid, mild-mannered and smiling boy who made my heart glad when I ran his campaign. Today, drunk with power, puffed up with conceit, swell-headed and arrogant, he is a political boss who hands out party posts at his whim without even being a party leader."

He then noted: "I don't want my fellow party members to see my accusation as a personal insult. This accusation is a fact that I can prove. I am speaking out because I have the evidence. I am prepared to answer to Rodolfo Elizondo. He can even come to my home, but sober, since his fondness for alcohol is public knowledge, not like the day before the Fifth District Convention, when he showed up at my house, walked in and ignoring my wife and children, said to me: 'So you're going to...' and let out a string of unprintable insults and obscenities."

Sanchez Cassio remembers the days of the romantic, spirited, almost heroic campaigns in which a true party spirit was at work.

"That's why now, when we have scored victories, when we have money and when we have won over a great many voters, it hurts me to see these little-rich-kid opportunists come on the scene and, because they are friends with the mayor, sit down in a bar and decide the nominations,

thus falling prey to the same vices that we are supposedly combating, that are bad when we denounce them but that are fine when we are the ones engaging in them."

He clarified that he is not against new people who might be deserving standouts entering his party. "First, however, they have to do party work, serve as activists, learn the ropes, not just come in and take over executive posts and displace the longtime fighters who enabled PAN to survive its most critical moments. Federico Ling, for example, with one stroke of his pen ousted the party's founders, as well as Jesus H. Elizondo, Ramon Perez Gavilan, Carlos Garcinava and the Najera brothers and reduced me to a mere sympathizer."

He said that this unprincipled behavior has caused a rift within PAN in Durango. Rodolfo Elizondo and Joel Rosas have had confrontations. As an instance of nepotism, he mentioned that Federico Ling, the chairman of the Regional Committee, appointed his wife treasurer when there were better candidates for the job.

He asserted: "I respect and even love my party. I am a PAN backer through and through, and in spite of the blunders of Federico Ling, Elizondo and their crowd, I will remain in my party and become active again when the people I knew return. It does not matter if we have to move back to a modest headquarters like the old building on Victoria Street. What matters is unity, integrity, having people other than Federico Ling, who thinks he is indispensable, not just necessary. I call on him to withdraw his candidacy and to let us work in peace, as our bylaws stipulate, so that the party can rise again, because now it is falling into discredit. And the election results will tell the tale..."

8743

CSO: 3248/410

MEXICO

NUEVO LEON STATE CONGRESSMAN RESPONDS TO SUSPENSION BY PAN

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 17 May 85 p 1-B

[Article by Lourdes Solis]

[Text] Mario Aguirre Villafana asserted yesterday that the National Action Party (PAN) suffers from centralism and disorganization because of its growth crisis.

Whereas some PAN activists have said in interviews that they regard the suspension of state congressman Fernando Gallegos Castillo as just, Herminio Gomez said that it was a drastic measure that might tarnish the party's image.

Gallegos Castillo was stripped of his rights as a PAN member for 2 years last Wednesday after the Political Commission ruled that he had violated party bylaws.

The suspended congressman said that the news hit him like a "blast of cold water" and felt that the decision was unjust.

Aguirre Villafana said that PAN is unfortunately going through a period of centralism and disorganization because it is growing.

"PAN should strengthen its organization. I am sharply critical of its campaign organization. It is not what it ought to be, and this is Mario Aguirre, not PAN speaking," said the former state congressman who was removed from office by the local Congress.

He said that he supports the suspension of the congressman, feeling, however, that the same measure should be applied to other party members who have violated its bylaws.

"The party should also check up on its councilmen. There hasn't been any hue and cry over the bills for the Revolution and Constitucion bridges or the traffic turmoil. They haven't nabbed anyone."

"You can't just move against easy targets," he said; "you also have to attack the sacred cows. To put it more respectfully, the approach has to be even-handed."

PAN yesterday published an announcement saying that Aguirre Villafana is not an official party spokesman.

The former state congressman said he was sorry the party spent so much money clarifying something so obvious.

Herminio Gomez felt that the decision by the PAN Political Commission was very drastic and could tarnish the party's image.

He said that the current political situation demands that the party pay special attention to the image it projects during the campaign.

"This will very likely have negative consequences that will tarnish the image of unity that our party enjoys and could have an adverse impact on its performance at the polls."

Unjust Suspension

Gallegos Castillo said that he does not plan to return to PAN when his suspension, which he regards as unjust, expires because that would be tantamount to admitting that the party was in the right.

He remarked that he would look into the invitations from other parties because he has no plans to retire from politics.

He said that he was never called in to clarify a situation while the PAN Political Commission was considering his suspension.

Nevertheless, he stated that 2 months ago he had spoken with Prieto, who asked him to request a leave of absence from the Congress or from the party.

"From this talk I got some inkling of the suspension, but they never talked to me and I couldn't raise objections," he added.

PAN accuses him of not defending Aguirre Villafana during the expulsion proceedings, of receiving favors from Graciano Bortoni when Bortoni was government secretary and of not sponsoring bills as a PAN legislator.

He acknowledged that he is a friend of Bortoni but denied that he had received money "under the table."

A Sound Move

Canales Clariond, the party's gubernatorial candidate, said that he supported the measure taken by the Political Commission although he regretted the need for it.

"No one is indispensable," he added. "Anyone who violates the bylaws must be suspended."

He denied that the suspension means that there is a rift in the party.

Prieto, PAN's regional chief, noted that this is the first case in Nuevo Leon in which a member of PAN holding a popularly elected post has been suspended.

He stated that the measure is healthy for the party because Gallegos Castillo was passive and undisciplined.

There are no rifts in PAN, he said, inasmuch as there was unanimous approval of the move.

Consuelo Botello de Flores, who is running for a state congress seat in the third federal district, said that the suspension of Gallegos Castillo was a just action that was necessary for the party's health.

"We cannot have people like that in the party," she said, "because such officials seriously tarnish its image."

Alfredo Corella, a state congressional candidate from the second federal district, said that the party's decision was something that Gallegos Castillo had coming to him by not complying with its bylaws.

"The only thing that the party did," he said, "was to remind Mr Gallegos that he was going to be punished if he did not keep his word."

8743

CSO: 3248/410

MEXICO

ILLEGAL WORKER ENTRY TAKEN UP BY INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 May 85 pp 1-A, 16-A

[Article by correspondents Alfredo Cordova and Porfirio Diaz]

[Text] Tapachula, Chiapas, 25 May--Yesterday, the undersecretary of interior, Jorge Carrillo Olea, announced that the chief executive would issue a resolution whereby the country's migration services will be restructured, delegating authority to 13 regional offices to alleviate all the red tape involving migration, except authorization for immigrants or those who have immigrated.

The official admitted that there is a lag in migration services, and also noted that, "drastic measures will be adopted against any case of corruption, including police forces which sometimes act overtly," identifying themselves as being associated with the Interior Secretariat, "and many others who assume spurious identity as members of the migration services and thereby increase the corruption."

Meanwhile, the undersecretary of the Office of Comptroller General of the Federation, Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, announced that measures would soon be enacted in other sectors to speed up the public service and heighten the levels of integrity.

Both officials spoke at the meeting on the rendering of migration services in the border zone, held by Soconusco in Tapachula, Chiapas.

Carrillo Olea remarked that it is impossible for the government to establish regulations that might prove arbitrary, for lack of communication. Hence, it is necessary to set up forums that will benefit all sides.

He added: "The government is obligated to protect those workers who enter the country legally to render a service that is demanded; but, similarly, it is obligated and wants to fulfill the obligation not to allow illegal workers to displace the Mexican labor."

In commenting on the decree to be issued by the chief executive to restructure the migration services, the official said: "This confirms the fact that Miguel de la Madrid has decided to adopt new types of organization and operation for

all the migration services, as a response to the social demands and the guidelines for democratization and moral renewal."

Carrillo Olea requested that a Chiapas commission be set up to voice the state's requirements with regard to migration services.

At the meeting, it was announced that the checkpoints would be eliminated in Chiapas, and that the "mobile units" would be regulated, the inspection of which must be improved and their powers and responsibilities demarcated.

He also announced that there would be new types of permanent identification for the migration services workers, to prevent confusion. The official explained that their functions would be required at airports, railroad stations and bus terminals to provide for the details of inspection activity.

The meeting was attended by the governor of Chiapas, Absalon Castellanos Dominguez.

2909

CSO: 3248/412

BRIEFS

GUATEMALAN SOLDIERS CROSS BORDER--Garita Talisman, Chiapas, 3 June--Agents who were on guard at this border told EXCELSIOR that four heavily armed Guatemalan soldiers crossed the international bridge over the Suchiate River in a camouflaged jeep and penetrated over 200 meters into Mexican territory. For obvious reasons, the agents requested that their names not be published, since the authorities required that they not provide any information to the news media. The Guatemalan soldiers, all of whom were young, were driving the aforementioned vehicle without any identifying plates, but were stopped by the agent from the Security Directorate who asked them to return to their territory and, if they wanted to enter national territory, told them to do so unarmed, and fulfilling the essential requirements. The attitude of the Guatemalans was one of amazement, and they "naively" inquired whether they were located outside of Guatemala. They later proceeded to board their jeep and returned to their country. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Jun 85 States Section p 2] 2909

TAMAULIPAS ATTRACTS CENTRAL AMERICANS--Tampico, Tamaulipas, 22 May--The current target of the Central American undocumented persons is Mexico and, specifically, Tampico, which appears to have a considerable supply of jobs in the area of economic development in the southern part of Tamaulipas, according to a comment made by the agent of the Interior Secretariat in the port, Roberto Olguin Perez, who added that, previously, the destination of those workers had been the United States. The official added that the foregoing statement was based on the responses given by the illegals during the surveys being taken by the office to detect "wetbacks" working on farms in Tamaulipas. He reiterated that the main reason for the arrival of scores of undocumented persons in this area is the corruption among the migration authorities in the southeastern section of the country who, in exchange for money, allow them to enter; as well as that of the civil authorities who, through extortion or by providing forged birth certificates, empty the pockets of the immigrants. Moreover, in Hermosillo, Sonora, nine foreigners were arrested near the settlement of Benjamin Hill by the Federal Highway Police, while being carried in a 1978 Ford pickup truck with a locked aluminum body. This report was made by the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Galindo Lopez, who noted that the small truck was driven by the Mexicans Ramon Palma Islas and Victor Manuel Diaz. The Mexicans will be remanded for the crimes cited in Article 118 of the General Population Law, and in the case of Palma Islas there will be added the crime of bribery, for having offered his truck to the federal agents if they would allow him

to escape. The aforementioned subjects were taking the undocumented persons from the southern part of the country to the town of Tijuana, from which they would attempt to move them into the United States. A third individual, Francisco Celaya Sarabia, was to travel from Guadalajara as far as Tijuana, where he would help them to cross the borderline in exchange for \$100 per person. All of those in custody, including a few women, were left at the disposal of the Federal Public Ministry. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 May 85 States Section pp 1, 4] 2909

SALVADORANS HELD IN VERACRUZ--Poza Rica, Veracruz, 7 June--The Judicial Police first commander, Jose Luis Sanchez Osorio, announced that, early this morning, the local police arrested 89 Salvadorans, presumed to be undocumented, who were subsequently turned over to the migration authorities of the Interior Secretariat with headquarters in the port of Tuxpan. He remarked that the Salvadorans were at the Nuevo Leon Hotel in the downtown section, where they were discovered by police forces. When they were requested to show the documentation that would accredit their entry into the country, it was decided to turn them over to the pertinent authorities. In conclusion, he commented that, to date, this is the largest group of foreign origin to be detected as illegal in the area, and that the authorities (owing to the large number of charges in the case) had decided that those now under arrest should be turned over to the migration department. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Jun 85 States Section p 3] 2909

IBEROAMERICAN MASONS URGE MORATORIUM--Acapulco, Guerrero, 14 June--Upon the conclusion of the International Convention of the Iberoamerican Association of Masonic Powers, all the attending delegations came out in favor of a moratorium or suspension of payment on the foreign debt of the Third World nations, "because of the usury stemming from high interest." Present at the closing of the event was Governor Alejandro Cervantes Delgado, who said that President De la Madrid "is seeking a solution to the country's economic problems, and no one will confuse or divide us." He gave a reminder that the legacy of Masonry "lies in independence and reform." He claimed that the voices of Simon Bolivar and Lazaro Cardenas, who fought for justice, freedom and democracy, are still resounding in America; and that this same policy is espoused by the president of the republic in the economic and political areas, as well as in international relations. Shortly before this, the director of the Mexican Masonic Organization, Carlos Vazquez Rangel, declared: "The peoples of America and the world are ready to fight in order to defend themselves against the attacks from abroad, charging them two or three times more interest." He said that this must not be tolerated, because the people are suffering from the worst crisis in their history. The new president of the Iberoamerican Association of Masonic Powers, Alfonso Peyon Vega, agreed with this. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Jun 85 States Section p 4] 2909

CSO: 3248/413

PARAGUAY

COLORADO PARTY REAFFIRMS LOYALTY TO STROESSNER

PY072307 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 7 Jun 85 p 1

[Statement released by the Executive Board of Colorado Party in Asuncion on 6 June]

[Text] Pursuant to an in-depth analysis of the current political status quo and of the origins and development of certain outbursts from self-proscribed elements of the opposition and individuals who have been expelled from the Colorado Party, the members of the Colorado Party Executive Board have unanimously agreed to address national and international public opinion to express their incorruptible loyalty to the constitutional government presided over by General Alfredo Stroessner, and their acknowledgement of the institutional loyalty of the Armed Forces of the nation, the two being key elements in implementing, through democratic normalcy, the Colorado Party's social and economic development program for the Paraguayan people.

The Executive Board also decided to publicly repudiate the slanderous and offensive campaign whose foreign and domestic dissemination through various news media seeks to distort the nation's image by means of offensive propaganda against its authorities and falsehoods, the only purpose being to elicit negative reactions toward Paraguay, its constitutional government, the Armed Forces, the Colorado Party, and the practicing opposition, those votes and proposals reflect the democratic pluralism in effect, which is open to the participation of all individuals and political groups with no requirements but those set forth in the Constitution and the laws.

In conclusion, the Executive Board has reviewed the internal status quo of the Colorado Party and the cohesion and unity of its ranks, and its members have agreed that this unity has remained unchanged and strong since the historical embrace on 27 October 1955, the lasting achievement of the process of normalization launched on 4 May 1954 and reaffirmed at the party convention in March 1956. Outside this unwavering path which the Colorado Party has been following for over 30 years are only those rebel elements who were at one time expelled from the party by their peers' votes, a decision that has recently been confirmed at memorable conventions.

The Executive Board urges all fellow party members to remain united around the party's republican and democratic principles, the backbone of institutional

normalcy, political stability, democratic opening, and national development, which are the main achievements of our time under the enlightened and patriotic leadership of the president of the nation, General Alfredo Stroessner. It also urges fellow party members to remain on alert against the slanderous campaign that has been worsening lately, clearly aimed at dividing the party, in the awareness that with a united Colorado Party, no conspiracy can succeed nor will regression hamper Paraguay's march toward its lofty objectives: freedom, order, development in peace, and democracy without communism.

Signed: Juan R. Chaves, President

CSO: 3348/748

PARAGUAY

COLORADO UNIVERSITY YOUTH REPUDIATE PARTY DELEGATES

PY201550 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Jun 85 p 12

[Paid ad dated Asuncion, 17 June 1985, entitled: "The MIC Withdraws Its Confidence and Requests a Change of Party Delegates," addressed to Juan Ramon Chaves, president of Colorado Party Executive Board]

[Text] In the name of the Movement of Colorado Integration (MIC) we address the president in order to reiterate our firm and energetic position in defense of the statutes, regulations and resolutions of our party, which have systematically been disobeyed by the delegates that the Executive Board has named to the Colorado University Center Dr Ignacio A. Pane [an auxiliary organization of the Colorado Party made up of university students]. The arbitrary attitude of these delegates encourages us, as young idealists, to express and petition the following:

A. The MIC withdraws the confidence of the Colorado university youth from the delegates that the Honorable Executive Board has named to the Colorado University Center Dr Ignacio A. Pane: Doctors Pedro Hugo Pena, Americo Velazquez and Martin Chiloa.

B. It requests the naming of other delegates who will be able to respond to the high party responsibilities and who will carry out their functions based on the principles of the Colorado Party, without letting themselves be influenced by the obscure and disgraceful interests of individuals or groups.

C. If this untenable and arbitrary situation persists, we will feel force to resort to the rank and file who make up our glorious Colorado district sections, urging them to request, in accordance with the party statutes, a special convention of the National Republican Association, ANR [Colorado Party], in order to defend the sacred party regulations that are currently in force.

The MIC also confirms its never-ending loyalty to the only leader of the Colorados, His Excellency the President of the Republic, Army General Alfredo Stroessner.

We remain yours faithfully.

[Signed] On behalf of the MIC Propaganda Committee: Maximo Ozuna, president; Fabio Persio da Silva Boschert, secretary; Claudio Balbuena Acosta, member; Julio Cesar Carreras Quevedo, member; and Genaro Cristaldo Ibarra, member.

CSO: 3348/748

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the budget to maneuver with in its efforts to cut costs and meet its health, education, agriculture and public works needs.

In the past, the four ministries corresponding to these fields had a great capacity for creating jobs and spurring the economy.

At present, the government can make no investments; it has no more resources, indicated the banker.

Investment Programs Near Zero

The government's investment programs for this year are near zero, claimed the BCR president; moreover, the budgets for these ministries cannot continue to shrink, because that would mean eliminating jobs. Thus, "we must realize that our problem is sociopolitical; in other words, it involves a failure to redistribute income."

In addition, stated Benitez Bonilla, the private sector has also created fewer jobs due to the problem of the extremists. The government cannot provide jobs for lack of revenues, and the slump in activity in the private sector cuts back further on employment.

He disclosed that military spending has risen from the previous 10 percent of the budget to the present 50 percent. The inflexibility of the government's austerity policy is theoretical; not much can be done to bring down spending. "The problem we have is one of internal imbalances," stressed Benitez Bonilla.

Budget Deficit Causes Serious Problems

The budget deficit is increasing the rate of devaluation day after day, no matter how many financial austerity and export promotion measures are taken. These measures are not enough, because the devaluation involves the inflation-fueling process of financing government spending by expanding the money supply.

Alberto Benitez Bonilla explained that this problem has been avoided until now thanks to U.S. aid.

He went on to emphasize, "We cannot continue this trend; we cannot go on like this for the rest of our lives. We must realize that the time will come when the United States will plan its withdrawal and will gradually cut back."

Special Financing

Benitez Bonilla stated later that one measure that could be taken is to seek special financing. It is not a matter of creating a permanent tax, he explained; the citizenry, all sectors, should understand that military spending is essential, because the very survival of democracy in this country depends on it. Special financing should be sought so that current revenues can help finance education (we must be aware that the country is intellectually "de-capitalized") and the projects of the Ministry of Public Works, and thus

compensate for the lack of jobs in industry due to the crisis, stated the BCR president.

Cotton Problem

He also expressed his concern about the cotton problem to the national press representatives gathered at the breakfast meeting, in terms of the area to be planted during the present season. He noted that the government has transferred all sales to the parallel market, and the inputs will be granted to the sector in official foreign exchange. He said that a tax subsidy would be impossible in view of the government's deficit of 700 million colons.

The problem is of great concern, because the lack of jobs in the rural sector could create social problems, warned Benitez Bonilla.

8926

CSO: 3248/397

EL SALVADOR

CAMACHO ON INFLATION DUE TO INCREASED FISCAL DEFICIT

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 May 85 pp 2, 63

[Text] The increase in the budget deficit is simply a springboard for inflation, which is nothing less than the depreciation of the national currency.

The current minister of the economy, Dr Ricardo Gonzalez Camacho, explained the situation in this way to LA PRENSA GRAFICA yesterday.

The Economy Ministry, he added, is undertaking a major effort to fulfill its obligation to protect the Salvadoran economy and prevent the ravages of unjustified price increases for basic goods. To achieve this goal, it is enforcing current legislation and punishing all merchants who violate it. That is why an appeal has been issued to all consumers in the nation to report to Domestic Commerce, an office of the Economy Ministry, any rise in the prices of government-regulated goods, he said.

The government, economically speaking, is unable to raise the wages of its employees, but the needs, demands, and positions of public servants who want to improve their situation are perfectly well understood, stated Dr Gonzalez Camacho. In view of the fact that it is really impossible to grant raises, however, the government is trying to hold down the prices of staple goods, he said.

No Raises

The problem of raising wages and benefits in the public sector at a time like this, when we are engaged in a conflict that is taking up 50 percent of the budget all by itself, is very difficult. Of course, it must be recognized that the government has taken every possible measure, and has striven to maintain acceptable price levels for basic products. Items such as cooking oil, rice and milk have stayed at the same price since June of last year, and there are steady supplies, explained the economic official.

Raise Causes Budget Deficit

A wage hike leads to a budget deficit, and that is simply a springboard for inflation, which is the depreciation of the currency. As inflation climbs, less can be bought with the same amount of money, he indicated.

As wages rise through deficit spending, someone must foot the bill, and that someone is the people.

For this reason, we must be very careful in such a situation. This does not mean, however, that there will never be raises. The situation must be handled very carefully, and the prices of basic goods must not be allowed to rise.

This is the task that we all must carry out; some must be vigilant and others must enforce the law to prevent a few from lining their pockets at the expense of the people, he concluded.

8926

CSO: 3248/397

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

NEW CULTURE MINISTER POSITION—Communication is basic to the development of nations; for this reason, the Central Government will give priority to this activity for the benefit of the people. This was stated to LA PRENSA GRAFICA yesterday by an official spokesman for the President's Office, who indicated that the appointment of Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes as head of the new Ministry of Culture and Communications means that special attention will be given to all forms of communication and culture among the Salvadoran people. The activities in the field of communications entail not only telecommunications, but also other basic elements, such as highways, mail, tourism, information about El Salvador in all of its facets, sports, and other factors, explained the spokesman. This is why beginning 1 June of this year, an effort will be made not to centralize the management or administration of these services, but to coordinate them more efficiently with all the institutions involved in communication. For one reason or another, these institutions now fall under different state secretariats, which has increased the red tape involved. That is what officials are trying to avoid, so that effective communication can be carried out and all the disinformation campaigns caused by the failure to explain actions can be counteracted, he asserted. [Excerpt] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 May 85 pp 3, 60] 8926

CSO: 3248/397

GRENADA

MINISTRY'S NATIONAL ENERGY PLAN WINS APPROVAL

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 18 May 85 p 16

[Text] A submission to cabinet regarding the acceptance of a National Energy Plan and Programme for Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique has been recently approved.

This submission, presented by the minister responsible for energy, Dr Keith Mitchell, dealt with the development of appropriate policies, plan and programmes for the effective management of our energy sector.

Grenada, as an oil importing nation is almost totally dependent on imported energy supplies in the form of Gasolene, Diesel, Kerosene and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (L.P.G.). The proportion of our export earnings going to purchase this petroleum has doubled in the last decade, being at present almost 35 percent of domestic exports, just about what we would get from our total export of nutmegs and bananas, two major export earners. With the expected investment and growth in the economy, this proportion could increase at an even faster rate.

It is therefore of critical importance, Dr Mitchell noted, that we have in place an effective system of energy management. This must include a sound institutional framework, a vital part of which is the Department of Energy as a planning coordinating and monitoring body within the Ministry of Works and Communications.

The National Energy Plan and Programme takes into account the conservation of energy through public education and pricing policy and also the development of our indigenous energy resources ranging from possible oil and gas deposits to our hydro and solar resources.

The minister called on the public at large and especially the high energy consuming enterprises to develop a greater awareness of the various aspects of our energy sector in the hope that more rational usage of energy would allow us to more ably face the task of developing our country in these times of high energy prices.

CSO: 3298/830

GRENADA

PAPER SLAMS MISCHIEF-MAKERS, URGES GOVERNMENT ACTION

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 8 Jun 85 p 4

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] Enough is enough! A way has got to be found to curb the activities of these shameless perpetrators of mischief. They are continuing in their customary, communistic, manipulative way to disrupt and to undermine peace, harmony and good order in the land by making great issues out of almost nothing. By capturing every apparent "cause" and blowing them up out of all proportion. And by seeking to inflame the society to the point where it can feel ready and willing, to accept, "revolution" once again.

The irony of the matter is that the people who make the loudest noise about their "rights" are the same people who were party to the arbitrary abrogation of all the rights of others.

Einstein Louison for instance is only "hoist by his (party's) own petard" when his passport is seized. It was his party which passed the law to provide for this. For exercising their basic rights--some times even for merely existing--hundreds of our citizens were jailed without charge or trial and or penalised in other ways.

During the reign of the NJM no group would have dared to challenge authority and occupy a park for a rally in defiance of police, as the MBPM did at Cuthbert Peters Park last Sunday. In addition to this many of the utterances of some of the leaders of this organisation borders, in our opinion, on the seditious.

It is time for the authorities to take seriously these people's determination and capacity to create disorder and to take them in hand. We call upon the police to examine whether a law was broken on Sunday and, if so, to press charges. And each time they break the law they must be charged. They will claim harassment, but they will make outrageous claims anyway. It is their nature and their method.

Freedoms and rights were provided to be enjoyed and for the protection of the people against oppression. They were not made to be abused. It is well known

that this group continues to direct through their cronies at least some of the affairs of certain government departments and institutions.

As the Americans prepare to leave the disruptors are clearly stepping up the tempo to test the resolve and the strength of the government and its security measures.

A display of weakness or undue tolerance would be a disastrous mistake. Steps must be set in train now to contain, if not excise, this cancer in our midst.

CSO: 3298/829

GRENADA

OPPOSITION MP PETERS DISTURBED BY SOME NNP ACTIONS

St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 8 Jun 85 p A

[Text] Parliamentary Representative for St. Andrew's North East and Leader of the Opposition, Marcel Peters is angry. He is concerned that NNP Parliamentarians are not observing protocol. Peters feels that work should not be done in his constituency without consultation with him. He gives as an example, the fact that, as part of a USAID funded nationwide school repair programme, repairs to the Belair Government School were undertaken without his knowledge and, to add insult to injury, the job was given to a builder who lives in another constituency (St. Patrick's East) while there are qualified people in his own constituency to do the job. He wants to know whether the reverse will be the case when St. Patrick's schools are being repaired.

Another matter causing Mr. Peters concern is that the NNP is forming groups that are supposed to be clubs but which are in fact political groups. He was invited to a meeting of one such group in Upper St. John's on Thursday and Chairman Samuel Phillips told him that it was an NNP political group. He said he told the group that their plan to build what they called a Community Centre but what he considered to be a party hall cannot be accomplished with government funds or money from funding agencies.

Efforts to reach a government minister or NNP official to comment on this matter were unsuccessful.

CSO: 3298/829

GRENADA

PRIVATE FM STATION BEGINS TESTS; NO GOVERNMENT OK GIVEN

Government Position

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 23 Jun 85 p 4

[Text]

ST. GEORGES, Sat., (Cana) — Grenada's six-month-old government has denied that it signed any agreement for the setting up of a private radio station in the northern town of Grenville.

Prime Minister Herbert Blaize was reacting in a statement to claims by interests connected with the proposed station that official approval had already been given for establishment of FM 90 Radio La Baye, as the system is being advertised.

Within the past month, backers of the station have reportedly brought in new equipment for the facility and selected sites to house studio and transmitters.

The promoter of the radio station is said to be Stanley Charles, Grenada-born journalist who lives in Britain.

Prime Minister Blaize said that, although advised while in London by

a Grenada Cabinet Minister to hold full discussions with the government here before securing equipment for the proposed station, the promoter indicated that he had to go ahead anyway because of some previous arrangement he had made.

Putting the cart before the horse as the promoter of Radio La Baye seems inclined to do, cannot be accepted as normal procedure and the promoter and all connected with him must be so advised, Blaize added.

However, the Government said it is fully prepared to discuss venture proposals with any Grenadian with a clear understanding that such talks must be held prior to any formal decision.

Charles had circulated a release here last month in which he said that Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of Dominica was expected to visit the island to witness the signing of the deal with the Government.

Test Transmissions

FL012341 Bridgetown CANA in English 2208 GMT 1 Jul 85

[Text] St Georges, Jul 1--The organisers of a private FM radio station in a rural area of Grenada have begun broadcast testing despite assertions from the government that no permission was given for its establishment.

This is FM 90 Radio La Baye testing, a male voice said repeatedly as the radio station began testing from Saturday.

Sources close to the organisers of the radio station told CANA that installation of the antennae should be completed by today.

No details were given by the announcer as to the date for the start of regular broadcasting.

The organisers said government had agreed to their proposal to launch the island's second radio station and its first privately owned one on conditions that the station operate only on the FM band and that the relevant broadcasting licenses be obtained.

CSO: 3298/829

GRENADA

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL CHANGES--Matthew Williams, Grenada's ambassador to Venezuela for the People's Revolutionary Government, and who continued to hold the post after the intervention, has been recalled and the man designated to replace him is N.E. "Bunny" Fletcher who, after being put "in orbit" for approximately two years by the PRG, was brought back to active service by the Interim Council and appointed permanent secretary in the chairman's office. Fletcher was retained as P.S. to the prime minister after elections and this position will now be filled by Mrs Margaret Dowe who is currently P.S. in the Ministry of Health. Mrs Ruth Rahim is being moved from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Health and her job as P.S. in agriculture will be performed by Mr Denis Noel in conjunction with the post of chief technical officer in that ministry. It is not yet known what posting will be given to former Ambassador Williams. [Text] [St Georges THE GRENADIAN VOICE in English 25 May 85 p B]

CSO: 3298/830

GUYANA

PROSPECTS FOR PNC-PPP DIALOGUE MAKE PROGRESS

Jagan Interview

Georgetown MIRROR in English 26 May 85 pp 2-3

[Text] The following is the text of questions asked by media personnel and answered by PPP General Secretary Cheddi Jagan at a Press Conference he hosted at Freedom House on May 9, 1985.

Gaitri Jaundoo—Guyana Broadcasting Corporation: You say the PNC is not genuine in its call for dialogue and the PPP is prepared to do everything possible to have that dialogue. Yet you seem to be setting out conditions for the dialogue. Why?

Dr. Jagan: No. We are not setting out conditions. All we are saying is that they must create a certain atmosphere. Our position is that we have doubts about the PNC. But we give them the benefit of the doubt. In other words one can't be too sure what they want to talk to us about. They said they want to have talks for co-operation. And we have examined the class nature of this party and state and have come to certain conclusions.

We have a form of capitalism here and dual tendencies in the ruling party. The majority tendency at the moment perpetuates a certain system which we call bureaucratic-state, co-operative and parasitic capitalism. There is a minority section of this petty-bourgeois class which is left-wing, called revolutionary democratic, and that section probably wants to go forward. We are therefore seeing a possibility of a chance to go forward.

I want to make this major point. We do not think that dialogue alone will change the situation. The working people have to struggle in order to achieve what we consider to be the right course for Guyana. It is not going to be done by dialogue alone.

Bhagwandin, Guyana News Agency: Back to the National Front. Don't you see such diverse forces like the church and the business community, taking into consideration the parallel economy, organising against such a front?

Dr. Jagan: The church, business community, professional groups and the middle strata are very important sections of the society. We have taken note of that.

That is why our party said openly that we intend to consult with all these forces. We have already had one talk with the TUC and we hope to meet them again. We have written to the Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturers' Association, the professional groups and we are hoping to meet all these bodies very soon because we think they not only can but must play a useful role in a future political solution in this country.

This is so for various reasons. Firstly, the parlous state of the economy. The broader the base of the government, the larger the support for the government. Naturally, it would be easier to solve the problems of the economy.

Secondly, the question of securing the territorial integrity and independence of the country. Any government anywhere in the world which wants to take a progressive, revolutionary course will come under attack from imperialism. Nicaragua is a living example right now. As such the government must have the broadest possible support of those interests you mentioned. And this is why we are interested in broad dialogue with all those social forces in the country.

Clem David--Guyana Broadcasting Corporation, CANA and Radio Antilles: If the PPP and the PNC were to reach common ground in relation to a National Front and you being a senior and respected political leader, what position would you be prepared to accept in a National Patriotic Front Government?

Dr. Jagan. I am not interested in any positions, personally. My party is interested in a democratic solution and programme which will help the country and people. I am not looking for positions.

PPP Agreement to Talk

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jun 85 p 13

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Mon., (Cana): THE People's Progressive Party (PPP), Guyana's main opposition group, has accepted an invitation from the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) for bilateral unity talks at the leadership level, a senior PPP official said.

The decision was taken in the interest of national development, security and socialist construction, the official told the Caribbean News Agency (Cana).

The central executive of the PPP had been discussing the proposal with its regional officers and rank and file members since last February.

"The decision to accept the invitation will mark an important development in the relations between the once bitter political enemies," the party official said.

The PPP has been proposing a national unity government as a means of tackling Guyana's myriad social and economic problems. Both the PPP and the PNC say they are Marxist-Leninist.

Political sources here said Socialist Bloc countries, notably Cuba and the Soviet Union, had been pushing for the two parties to resolve outstanding differences and work towards unity and co-operation.

The PNC announced its desire last January to pursue constructive dialogue with the PPP in the interest of national unity.

Jagan on Objectives

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jun 85 p 14

[Text] Guyana's ruling People's National Congress (PNC) is to get together with its main political rival, the People's Progressive Party (PPP), in an attempt to find a political solution to worsening economic and social conditions in that country.

The parties are expected to start talks shortly aimed at building up a broad-based political front to represent the interest of workers, farmers, intellectuals, small businessmen, the Church and other important social sectors. The talks are to be held at the suggestion of the PPP.

According to PPP General Secretary and Leader of the Opposition in Guyana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the idea is for the country to attain a government of all left and democratic forces based on democracy and anti-imperialism, with socialist orientation.

"We are hoping the talks will help in the process of building a national patriotic front," Dr. Jagan said at a news briefing yesterday.

He said that the country was in danger of falling into the "dependant/distorted form of capitalism" that existed in many debt-ridden Latin American countries.

Only Solution

"The only solution is socialist orientation--a political front in which the PPP, PNC and any other political party can take an active role. Social and economic organisations must also play a vital role in governing and decision making," he added.

Dr. Jagan, who ends a four-day visit to Trinidad today, said that change was necessary but he would not condone any change that would involve "jumping from the frying pan into the fire."

He said that Guyana's acute financial and social problems stemmed from the fact that there was no democracy at any level, no people's involvement, and this had led to poor production levels with repercussions on the country's economy.

This was combined with extravagance and corruption, he added.

Pressing Matters

The PPP was hoping that talks between the two parties could cover a number of pressing matters which required attention and urgent resolution.

These, he said, included:

--Ensuring democracy at the political, social and industrial levels and the people's involvement in decision making. This would include official recognition

of the genuine and democratic economic and social organisations of the people and respect for the constitutional rights of the democratically-organised and run political organisations. Special attention must be paid to free and fair elections at the national, regional and local levels.

--The need immediately to set up a Government/Opposition Committee to examine the entire range of importation and distribution of goods and to put in place a system for the fair distribution of such goods.

--Taking all practical measures to curb the lowering of the people's living standards and the deterioration of social services, while offering adequate wages and salaries and eliminating extravagance and all forms of discrimination and corruption.

--Safeguarding and defending national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity by expanding the People's Militia into every town, village and community.

--Deepening Guyana's anti-imperialist policy and establishing the closest relations with the socialist community, both for economic and social development and for defence of political independence.

Havana Visit

The working class would to play a vital role in this expected political alliance, Dr. Jagan said.

Figures given by the Opposition Leader showed that the country was faced with an ever-increasing budget deficit. Last year it was \$389 million with debt and compensation payments at \$699 million.

Dr. Jagan is to pay a week-long visit to Havana, Cuba, before returning to Guyana.

Jagan on 'Front'

Georgetown MIRROR in English 19 May 85 pp 2-3

[Text] The following are two questions posed by Radio Journalist Clem David and answered by PPP General Secretary, Cheddi Jagan, at a press conference at Freedom House on May 9, 1985.

Clem David: One foreign correspondent has reported that the PPP is seriously interested in taking political power in the next general elections and that the PPP is prepared to go as far as possible in seeking an alliance of political groupings to unseat the PNC government.

There seems to be a strange relationship now perhaps it is the case of the tom cat and the canary. Of those unions which took part in what was called the parallel rally, three of them are opposed to the socialist intentions of the present government. Your party for decades now has spoken of socialism. How

do you perceive this gathering of strange bed-fellows in terms of what I wish to call a strong political manoeuvre. In terms of the present situation--a split in the ranks of the TUC--how do you perceive the PPP contesting an election to fight the PNC, perhaps next year?

Answer: You have asked very complex questions. I would try to answer them. Firstly, the PPP, like any other political party is interested in political power. We are a working class party of Guyana. But we have said repeatedly that we believe in the politics of "winner-does-not-take-all" in the present situation. We therefore want "front" politics--a National Patriotic Front.

We have said that any party, any group, can belong to such a front provided they subscribe to three main principles--democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation.

When some people ask: Can the PNC belong? We say the PNC can belong like anyone else if they subscribe to those three principles. Our problem with the PNC is that the PNC does not practice democracy in Guyana as a government in any form--political, social or industrial. So far as the other two questions are concerned, anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation we are saying that in anti-imperialism, they must deepen the content of that; where social-orientation is concerned they must lay the foundations for this property.

As regards others, some want democracy only. We have repeatedly said that bourgeois democracy alone cannot solve the problems of the people. While we struggle for democracy we want to give it a content. At the Critchlow Labour College seminar, when the WPA put forward the slogan of a democratic republic we said there are bourgeois democratic republics, revolutionary democratic republics and socialist-democratic republics. We are calling for a revolutionary-democratic republic with the content of anti-imperialism and socialist-orientation. We are not in any alliance with what you call "strange bedfellows."

Let me make another point here. The TUC is not a political party. The TUC is an organisation bringing together trade unions and workers who belong to those trade unions. These workers belong to different political parties and have different political parties and have different ideological political perspectives. It is not expected that the TUC would have one ideological position. As George Daniels, TUC President said, the TUC has people from the PPP, PNC and WPA. Therefore we are not there uniting only on the grounds of ideology. GAWU is uniting there with other forces who want democracy, a living wage and for good conditions for the working people. And if the government of Guyana is anti-working class, anti-labour, then we will ally with anybody in the TUC to fight for those conditions.

At the political level, this is a different question. GAWU operates at the trade union level and Guyana and may be working within the six union movement, one also has to take into consideration that the TUC itself as an organisation is committed to socialism. At the CLC seminar, President George Daniels got up and said that the TUC is committed to socialism. So I do not see where the quarrel of the PNC-controlled unions is with the TUC. The TUC as an organisation is committed to socialism and democracy and those two things are linked up in our

view. We do not see any reason for the PNC to split the working class movement in Guyana when it says it wants socialism also. To go to socialism, we need working class unity to strengthen the class struggle in order to attain socialist objectives.

Clem David: Are we witnessing the beginning of a new class struggle?

Answer: No. There is no new class struggle; it is on-going. We have identified the positions where the class struggle in the context of Guyana means working class unity, fight against International Monetary Fund, which is an instrument of imperialism; fight against imperialism in its war mongering all over the [text missing] should go to solving problems of peoples like the people of Guyana; in other words, part of the class struggle is to fight against imperialism in the international and regional arena; to fight for the Caribbean to become a zone of peace; to stop intervention of imperialism as it did in Grenada and is now threatening Nicaragua. That is part of the class struggle of the Guyanese people.

Internally, also, the Guyanese people have to wage class struggle against the existing system which is anti-working class--the system which we call bureaucratic, state, co-operative and parasitic capitalism. We have said that we do not want to go backwards from the existing system to the free enterprise dependent distorted system, which has been existing in Latin America, and which has already proved bankrupt. That system is no answer. The class struggle in Guyana therefore means forcing this government to go forward to a socialist-oriented course. And that is what we are working for--unity of the working class and for the working class to wage the struggle against the existing system here, which is not serving the working people, and to go to a more progressive direction.

CSO: 3298/794

GUYANA

BACKGROUND TO PNC-PPP DIALOGUE EXAMINED

FL201240 Bridgetown CANA in English 1328 GMT 19 Jun 85

[Text] Georgetown, Jun 19--Guyana's two major political parties are on the verge of high-level cooperation talks which, if successful, could significantly change the country's political landscape, and impact on this republic's relations with partners in the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

No date has yet been fixed for the get-together, but both the ruling socialist People's National Congress (PNC) and the Marxist opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) have named their representatives for a technical committee, responsible for making preparations for the discussions.

The composition of the committee underlines the seriousness with which both sides are approaching the discussions. The PNC chief delegate is Ranji Chandisingh, himself a former high ranking official of the PPP, but now general secretary of the PNC.

Chandisingh has a reputation among political analysts here as a radical Marxist. The other PNC delegate is Elvin McDavid, a central executive committee member of the PNC, and widely considered here as one of President Forbes Burnham's closest political aides.

The PPP delegation is made up of two executive members, Parliamentarian and Education Secretary Feroze Mohamed and International Secretary Clement Rohee.

Creation of this preparatory committee is the first substantive step towards bringing together arch political rivals, President Forbes Burnham, Guyana's leader since 1964, and Dr Cheddi Jagan, leader of the opposition, a former premier and a committed Marxist.

Jagan, in accepting the PNC's invitation to formal talks, has already given notice that the PPP is interested not only in a greater say in economic decision-making but also wants to talk about deepening Guyana's anti-imperialist policy... a euphemism for moving further to the left.

He also urged discussions on establishing the closest relations with the socialist community for economic and social development...which could be translated as advocating some type of formal association between Guyana and

the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)--an economic grouping of Eastern bloc countries popularly referred to in the West as COMECON.

Guyana may begin to see more compelling reasons now for developing such an association, with its sources of economic aid in the West growing shorter as its debt arrears accumulate.

Jagan also asked for the discussions to include subjects such as:

Official recognition of the genuine and democratic economic, and social organisations of the people...with special attention focused on free and fair elections at all levels;

The creation of a government/opposition committee to examine the import and distribution of goods and the establishment of a mechanism to ensure fair distribution of these goods;

Practical measures to improve living conditions in the country and to halt what the PPP sees as a deterioration in the social services in the country;

Safeguarding national sovereignty by expanding the people's militia to include every town, village and community; and

Deepening Guyana's anti-imperialist policies, together with the establishment of a central planning commission to oversee development of the economy.

Responding to Jagan's agenda, Reid [as received] merely noted the subjects he proposed discussing. But he added: Without prejudging the relevance, admissibility or exclusivity of the issues, we feel it would be more advantageous to leave to the preparatory committee any questions as to the specific matters which might properly be the subject of the inter-party talks.

The formal move towards some kind of dialogue between the two, who until the 1950's were political associates, came from the PNC, although informed political sources here said Dr Jagan had himself informally indicated a desire for such discussions previously.

The PPP leader had, in fact, publicly called for at least some minimum cooperation with the PNC. But until January this year, there was no explicitly positive response from the ruling party. But this has not frustrated collaboration between Guyana's two most powerful political forces at lower levels.

The PNC-supported Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) and the PPP-linked Guyana Peace Council (GPC) have had cordial relations for some time, and have more often than not enunciated identical positions on such regional and international issues as peace in Central America, and nuclear disarmament.

The PPP and PNC also collaborated in recent demonstrations outside the American Embassy here protesting the United States trade embargo against Nicaragua. PNC Executive Secretary Patrick Denny described the demonstrations by the two parties as an exercise designed to show the support of the Guyanese people for the Nicaraguans.

But a more pointed example of the growing climate of accommodation between the two parties came at the level of the National Assembly last month, when the government moved to tighten national security legislation, to provide, among other things, for preventive detention.

The PPP opposed the measure, and in a letter to PNC Executive Committee Chairman Dr Ptolemy Reid, warned that its introduction could hinder moves towards reconciliation between the two parties.

The government deferred the bill when it came up in the National Assembly, and the state media specifically made clear that the decision not to take any further action on it stemmed from representations by the opposition PPP.

But these examples of an improving climate of cooperation between the PPP and PNC are being quickly eclipsed by the real prospects of a Burnham-Jagan summit and eventual fundamental changes in Guyana's political and economic alignments.

An important factor influencing PNC moves towards the fruitful cooperation talks is Guyana's economic crisis, characterised by multiple devaluations in the last 18 months, a severe foreign exchange shortage, debt of more than 1 billion dollars (U.S.), and a drying up of economic assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Another important factor influencing the current moves towards some kind of accommodation has been the ruling party's loss of control of the powerful Trade Unions Congress (TUC), which speaks for the 24 unions that make up the labour movement here.

The largest, the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU), which groups employees in the vital sugar industry, is PPP-controlled. The PPP is also supported by six other unions which together with the GAWU account for 50,000 of the 80,000 workers in the labour movement.

Trade unions supportive of the PNC had held control of the TUC for much of the 20 years the PNC has been in power. But the party lost that control when the TUC held its most recent elections, reportedly shocking the hierarchy of the PNC.

A coalition of some kind with the PPP would, effectively, restore considerable governmental influence--even if not complete control--over the TUC.

One notable absentee from the present initiatives has been the Working People's Alliance (WPA), whose late leader, Dr Walter Rodney, was slain in a car bomb blast five years ago this month. Precisely why the WPA has been reduced to the role of spectator has not been explained by either the PNC or the PPP, which has, in the past, suggested its inclusion in any patriotic front government.

Observers suggest that the WPA has been unable to recover from Dr Rodney's death, and its once promising following has now dwindled into virtual insignificance.

Another more fundamental reason being advanced is a fear among some leftwing political figures here and elsewhere in the Caribbean that the WPA's ranks may now include elements whose genuine loyalties to socialism have become suspect.

This aside, the impact of a PNC-PPP administration would almost certainly be felt in Caricom, especially if the creation of such a government is accompanied by the postponement of general elections, constitutionally due by next March at the latest.

Against a background of persistent charges of human rights abuse and election rigging, Guyana's relations with its more conservative neighbours in Caricom have never been particularly warm.

The late Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams took Burnham to task from time to time. Jamaica not so long ago was privately advocating a new regional grouping that would have excluded Guyana.

Dominica's Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles is on record advocating the move of the Caricom Secretariat from Georgetown to another country in the community.

Formation of a hardline Marxist government in Guyana, particularly if elections are postponed, seems bound to provoke more strenuous moves for its isolation in Caricom.

Caricom, with its predominantly rightwing governments, has always if not demanded, then expected that regular general elections were necessary for full acceptance into the community, as illustrated by the community's lukewarm attitude to the People's Revolutionary Government in Grenada between 1979 and 1983. The PRC had come to power in the Commonwealth Caribbean's first coup d'etat.

CSO: 3298/817

GUYANA

JAGAN STATEMENT ON IMF DECISION, GOV'T 'COLLABORATION'

Georgetown MIRROR in English 19 May 85 p 1

[Text]

The following is a statement issued by PPP General Secretary Cheddi Jagan on the recent declaration of the IMF.

While the declaration of the IMF that Guyana was "ineligible to use the resources of the Fund" is deplorable, it was something not unexpected.

The IMF, as an imperialist-controlled financial and monetary institution, placed Guyana into a debt trap, with the willing collaboration of the PNC government. It then imposed political/ideological conditions.

At first, in the 1978-82 period, the PNC regime collaborated with the Fund in its anti-working class and external pro-imperialist depredations. It was only since 1983, in keeping partly within its own partisan interest, that the PNC began opposing the IMF prescriptions, and even then with a lack of firmness. The government should have abandoned the IMF road instead of waiting to be declared ineligible.

The assertion by the regime that the IMF decision underscores the need for self-reliance is not enough. There has been talk for a very, very long time about self-reliance. It is necessary to translate talk into action. At the same time the government is still hoping, despite the decision, to strike an agreement. We need a national dialogue not IMF dialogue.

The fact is that, despite the considerable help from the IMF and other external financial institutions, the country has retrogressed not progressed. This has been basically due to the government's perpetual reliance on greater and greater taxation and borrowing. It has failed to deal with the structural impediments to increases in production, productivity, and exports and self-sufficiency.

Self-sufficiency will never be attained with the government on a deliberate collision course with the workers and their trade union movement, the farmers, the Church, professional bodies and the business community, and rule by terror and fear.

Had the PNC heeded the PPP's advice since 1978 about the IMF, it would not today be bemoaning the Fund's declaration of "ineligibility". The time has come for the only way out of the crisis: the implementation of the PPP's call for a National Patriotic Front and Government of all left and democratic forces, based on a programme of democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist orientation.

GUYANA

COUNTRY HAS GOOD RECORD WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 19 May 85 p 1

[Text]

GUYANA is not in arrears with the Inter-American Development Bank, and that regional lending institution has no problems with this country as far as satisfying the criteria for loans is concerned.

This was stated yesterday by the Bank's representative in Guyana, Manuel Arísty. He stated that since Guyana joined the IDB in 1978 it received \$158 million US in loans for development of almost every sector of the economy, but particular attention has been paid to

support for agricultural projects.

Speaking on the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation weekly programme, Face The Nation, he said that in its 25 years of operation \$25 billion US have been issued to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean for developmental projects.

And since 1978 a portion of this money has been disbursed to small farmers and other artisans who do not qualify for loans under the normal banking system.

So far 127 such loans have been disbursed, totalling \$53 million US.

He explained that part of the Bank's role is to support regional economic integration through groupings like the Latin American Integration Movement and Caricom. He disclosed that in keeping with this position \$25 million was recently loaned to the Caribbean Development Bank.

CSO: 3298/796

GUYANA

PNC, PPP JOIN IN PROTEST OF U.S. POLICY ON NICARAGUA

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 2 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] In a show of solidarity with the People of Nicaragua, Guyana's two leading political parties the People's National Congress and the People's Progressive Party yesterday mounted a joint picketing exercise in front of the United States Embassy in Main Street, Georgetown.

The picketing exercise lasted two hours and attracted a large crowd of interested spectators who were reminded of U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean and Latin American region.

According to Executive Secretary of the ruling People's National Congress, Patrick Denny, the exercise was organised to demonstrate the support of the Guyanese people for the Nicaraguans.

The United States of America in an effort to overthrow the legally elected Sandinista government is openly supporting the "Contras," a group of rebels. Over the past few months, the Reagan administration, in spite of opposition from the U.S. Congress, has increased its financial and material support for the rebels who are fighting against the Sandinistas.

The U.S. has also imposed economic sanctions, similar to the ones against Cuba, in an effort to bring the Daniel Ortega government to its knees and at the same time strangle the Nicaraguan revolution.

The economic sanctions involve the:

- * prohibition of all imports into the U.S. of Nicaraguan goods,
- * prohibition of all exports from the U.S. to Nicaragua,
- * prohibition of Nicaraguan planes from operating to and from points in the U.S., and
- * prohibition of Nicaraguan ships from entering U.S. ports.

The placards which represented the views of many developed and developing countries urged the U.S. government to give the Contadora peace process a chance and to lift the embargo.

The Contadora group, made up of Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and Colombia, is trying to find a solution to the Central American conflict.

GUYANA

JAGAN, IN TRINIDAD, DISCUSSES TRADE UNION SITUATION

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 9 Jun 85 p 3

[Article by Irma Rambaran]

[Text] DR CHEDDI JAGAN, Guyana's Opposition Leader, yesterday called for the unity of all anti-imperialists and peace forces to make the Caribbean a zone of peace.

Speaking at the fourth biennial conference of the Bank and General Workers Union at the St Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies,

Jagan said this must be the Caribbean's contribution to world peace and it would be "the greatest tribute that we can pay to the great Caribbean revolutionary, Maurice Bishop."

Jagan, whose address was entitled *The Caribbean Working Class — Its Present Aspirations*, said no other single issue was more important today than world peace and "in this period of deep crisis, unity and solidarity must be our watchwords."

He added: "Above all there is urgent need for working class unity. Regrettably, the disunity created by the colonialists in their divide and rule policies are being perpetuated by present day self-seekers."

In outlining the history of the working class in the Caribbean, Jagan said that although colonialism had come to an end, neo-colonialism remained and "the new but more subtle form of domination under dependent distorted capitalism

has led to grave economic and social crisis and rapidly deteriorating living standards."

He said the Caribbean ruling class in the 1980s, in the face of an aggravated economic situa-

tion, had adopted a "pragmatic rightist-opportunistic course. They opted for handouts under (U.S. President Ronald) Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative and have become linked in a political/military alliance with the United States."

Jagan added that another major factor posing problems for the Caribbean democratic, anti-imperialist and leftist forces was "a captive trade union movement in the services of U.S. capital and local reaction."

"The trade union movement," he said, "has been instrumental in either playing a counter-revolutionary role in collaboration with the CIA or taking a class collaboration position betraying the interests of the workers. The trade unions are generally manipulated in the hands of

"labour-aristocracy", have become docile and are largely ignored."

Jagan also said that the division of the left in Trinidad and Tobago has been responsible for the People's National Movement's ability to hold power since 1956.

"In Trinidad and Tobago, various political/ideological tendencies in the labour movement and mistakes in strategy and tactics have led to confusion among the workers and division in the democratic, progressive and anti-imperialists ranks.

"Largely through division of the left, the PNM regime has been able to hold political power since 1956. And, regrettably, the vacuum created by the growing unpopularity of the PNM regime is being filled by the centrist/rightist forces."

CSO: 3298/794

GUYANA

BURNHAM, REID ADDRESS PNC GENERAL COUNCIL SESSION

Prospects for '85

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 19 May 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

LAST year saw the dawning of a new era. The Guyanese economy grew by more than two per cent when many other countries, including some in the developed world, continued to experience negative growth. This year promises to be even better.

Leader of the People's National Congress and President, Cde. Forbes Burnham, predicts that 1985 will be historic. Deputy Leader, Cde. Ptolemy Reid, believes 1985 will be our "Shining Year." All indications are in this direction.

There is much to be achieved in the field of agriculture both in terms of what can be accomplished by our own efforts as well as that which will be achieved with assistance from friendly countries. Yugoslavia is just one of the friendly countries from which Guyana will obtain equipment. The equipment from Yugoslavia will be for agricultural development.

In addition agriculture will be boosted by the local production of small water pumps. Actual production of the pumps should commence by year end.

LEADERSHIP.

Quite rightly the national focus is on agriculture,

especially when one considers that millions face death from starvation as a result of drought, famines and floods.

But as Cde. Burnham, in a major presentation to the last General Council meeting of the Party said: "It is not for us to exult over the misfortune of others. Rather, let us take comfort in the fact that none of these happenings, natural or man-made, have taken place in Guyana."

While other countries are experiencing difficulties in feeding their people because of the wise leadership of the P.N.C. Guyanese are in the fortunate position of having an abundance of food, some of which we export.

During the 1980s the PNC launched a programme to feed, clothe and house the nation. The 'ban' was introduced during the early 1970s and immediately the nation's farmers began to earn the just rewards for their labour. They started to earn more for their efforts. Prior to the ban on certain imported foods Guyana was paying foreign farmers for their agricultural production.

DEVELOPMENT

This year, development is to take place in a number of areas. Through a line-of-credit with Yugoslavia,

Guyana will receive equipment for the canning industry.

Canning will enable Guyana to preserve those foods which, during times of glut, tend to be wasted and which fetch very high prices in times of scarcity.

Through the Yugoslav line-of-credit equipment will be acquired for the Guyana Electricity Corporation which is now experiencing

problems.

Our timber industry has the potential to become an important foreign exchange earner in Guyana. Guyana is soon to acquire equipment for drying and seasoning wood. Again these will come from Yugoslavia and they will be consigned to the Demerara Woods complex at Mabura.

COUNTERTRADE.

Needless to say, every

piece of equipment from Yugoslavia must be paid for.

Initially bauxite is to be used in exchange for these equipment. The Yugoslavs need some 50 000 tonnes of abrasive grade bauxite for their industries and Guyana is in a position to satisfy this need without any reduction in sale on the conventional

markets.

The People's Republic of China needs wood from Guyana; many Eastern European countries need rice, sea foods, and a variety of resources boasted by Guyana; Libya needs rice, fish, shrimp and other foods; the Caribbean needs food from Guyana. Guyana has resources that are needed by many countries.

Cde. Burnham said that the imagination of the nation and the proper deployment of its resources led to the acquisition of "those things we need."

IMAGINATION.

Exploitation of Guyana's forest resource is to lead to the acquisition of a match factory from China. Wood is to be used in exchange for the construction of this factory.

To help pay for some of these things that have been acquired to enhance national development will require increased production at the lowest possible cost. In every Guyanese industry there is unused capacity and this represents a loss in productive capacity.

Production of the major exports is doing well. Sugar has surpassed its first crop target and rice appears to be heading for the target.

These targets, however, have been set according to the available machinery. Some of the pieces of equipment in the sugar industry are as much as 30 years old and need constant repairs. However, in some industries where set targets are met there could be greater production.

Land preparation equipment and adequate facilities for reaping the crop are among the limiting factors in the rice industry. Provision of equipment to satisfy these areas will lead to higher targets being set. This will pave the way for Guyana to buy yet more

equipment for national development.

Government is in the process of decentralising the public service in an effort to ensure there is adequate personnel in the productive locations.

As the Comrade Leader predicts and as the Comrade Deputy Leader contends 1985 will be both historic and shinning if the masses are fully involved in production.

Danger of Complacency

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 19 May 85 p 2

[Text] The performance of the membership of the People's National Congress should be excellent "in absolute terms." The Party must not be satisfied with the results it currently gets.

These views were among those expressed by the leadership of the Party during the recent General Council meeting. The leadership was examining the relationship between the Party and the masses.

Leader of our Party Cde Forbes Burnham noted that the PNC has done much for Guyana. But to rest on those achievements would be to stagnate and eventually to regress.

There is the tendency of some Party cadres to be satisfied with the achievements of the Party. This tendency is probably due to the fact that the People's National Congress has been faced with "a propagandist" opposition rather than a vibrant political opposition.

The People's National Congress has great potential for organisation and mobilisation because of its studied role in the development of Guyana.

There are those who seek to criticise the policy of Party paramountcy contending that the Party should be separate and distinct from the state. However, it should be recognised that the state machinery comes out of the Party and it is the Party that enunciates the policy the Government must follow.

But even as the critics and others in the propagandist opposition level their charges they should realise that the People's National Congress enjoys the basic support of the masses.

No amount of mobilisation could have produced the result seen at the major national events without the basic support of the masses. Mashramani celebrations this year have been mass-based and so enjoyed the popular support of the Guyanese people.

The massive People's Parades, the successful May Day rallies and the annual flag-raising events to commemorate the anniversary of the Co-operative Republic attracted such crowds that the so-called opposition quaked in their boots.

As Cde Leader urges, Party cadres should not be satisfied with merely being better than the opposition, rather they should aim at mobilising all of Guyana under the banner of the People's National Congress.

CSO: 3298/795

GUYANA

PNC OFFICIALS MEET PUBLIC; 'FOOT-DRAGGING' CRITICIZED

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 26 May 85 p 2

[Text] **CENTRAL Executive Member and Minister of Forestry, Cde Sallahuddin has hit out at the "callousness" and undue "foot-dragging" by employees in the public sector in relation to dealing with members of the public in the regions and at the centre.**

Cde Sallahuddin made these observations after a meet the public meeting he conducted two Fridays ago at the D'Urban Street District Office of the People's National Congress. At these meetings members of the public meet with senior PNC officials to discuss issues affecting them.

The Minister said, "People are anxious to meet the decision-makers to tell of things which can be developmental, to benefit the whole society. At times the information contains material important to national security."

Cde Sallahuddin expressed great dismay about the attitude of public service operatives who allow issues which can be solved almost instantly, to run on for years, "resulting in frustration and the slowing

of national development programmes."

He cited some cases that were brought to his attention at his recent D'Urban Street meeting to illustrate his observations. The first case was a woman whose husband was a soldier in the Guyana Defence Force and who died in April 1982 while performing his duties. This widow has not been able to draw on benefits accrued in contributory pension schemes by the husband.

The second case involved an accident in September 1981 involving a Police vehicle and a privately owned car. The Police had undertaken to repair the vehicle, but to date no such action has been taken.

Cde Sallahuddin said that his personal impression was that there were very "weak procedures in Government Ministries and Corporations" to allow such issues to run for so long. There is "a certain amount of callousness on the part of the operatives," he added.

He, however, observed with some amount of satisfaction, the high percentage of non-PNC members who attended the meeting to discuss their problems and to give in-

telligence reports or to share views on matters of interest to the communities in which they live: and that the nation as a whole.

Cde Sallahuddin said that more than 30 people were interviewed and at least 20 were non-members of the PNC.

"I did not ask if they were members but it came out in their discussions. I think this is a very healthy sign and testifies to the fact that the PNC is a people's Party and people from all walks of life can find solace in it."

GUYANA

DEBATE ON NEW SECURITY BILL STALLED AT PPP REQUEST

Action in Parliament

Georgetown MIRROR in English 26 May 85 p 1

[Text] The National Assembly met for less than 10 minutes on Thursday last when the second reading of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill 1985 was the sole item on the agenda for debate.

Parliamentarians entering the compound of the Public Buildings were met by a large picket line with slogans denouncing the National Security Bill. A double row of placard-carrying demonstrators composed of members of the People's Progressive Party and member-unions of the TUC--CCWU, NAACIE and GAWU--carried slogans reading:--"Down with national security bill: national security bill violates human rights: we want democracy not detention: we want jobs, food democracy not national security: national security bill means detention without trial arrest the PNC bill". Also on the picket line were 3 PPP Parliamentarians, Isahak Basir, Cyril Belgrave and Janet Jagan:

In the National Assembly the Minister of Home Affairs announced that the second reading (when the debate takes place) of the National Security Bill would be deferred to the next sitting, which was fixed for June 24 next. A request for this had been made by the Leader of the Opposition.

The National Security Bill is seeking to widen the powers of the state in security matters giving powers of detention without trial in order, the Bill says, to prevent any person "from acting in any manner likely to cause the subversion of democratic institutions in Guyana".

In Section 12(1) which reads, in connection with reasons for detention, "with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to public safety or public order or the defence of Guyana", these words are being added to that sentence--"or for the purpose of preventing him from acting in any manner likely to cause the subversion of democratic institutions in Guyana".

These changes are considered as intentions to extending the powers of the National Security Act, to widen the net for possible detentions. The PPP has expressed its deep concern about the Bill and has noted that its members have always noted that its members have always been the victims of such repressive laws. The PPP, two times in 1953 and again in 1964-65, has suffered the effects

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of laws permitting detention without trial. It is believed that on this occasion, the National Security Bill is aimed at intimidating leading trade unionists who have defied the ruling party.

Before the brief session of Parliament concluded, Opposition Leader Cheddi Jagan got agreement for a motion to be heard at the next sitting of the National Assembly which condemns the US Government for imposing sanctions on Nicaragua and calls on the Guyana Government to give all-round support to the government and people of Nicaragua. The motion also seeks to inform the United Nations Secretary General of the grave dangers posed to the Region by the United States' actions.

Eleven and a half months ago, Dr. Jagan had sent a motion to the National Assembly asking that body to call on the US to abstain from all further acts of violation of the sovereignty and political independence of Nicaragua. Notice of that motion was finally published on Thursday last.

[Editor's Note: The Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE of 24 May 1985, page 1, also reported the postponement of the reading of the bill "after representation by Leader of the Minority People's Progressive Party (PPP) Dr Cheddi Jagan." The item appeared under the headline "Security Bill Postponed at Jagan's Request."]

WPA Organ's Criticism

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 25 May 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] A "Catch All" Law

According to GBC news the National Assembly on Thursday of this week postponed its sitting. At this session the Home Affairs Minister was to be given new powers of detention.

Bill No 8 of 1985 tabled in Parliament last week is what is called a "catch all" law.

If they can't claim a person is a danger to "public safety, public order or the defence of Guyana", they will claim that the person is "likely to subvert democratic insitutions".

To 'Subvert' Means to Undermine

This new law which is now to be debated on June 24 is to prevent "subversion of democratic institutions" in Guyana.

Since the law does not say what is "subversion" and what is a "democratic institution" they are free to call any and everything "subversion of a democratic institution".

To ask questions about the so-called People's Cooperative Units, as the WPA is doing in and out of court, could be described by them as "subversion of a democratic" institution".

In Article 50 of the Constitution, the President is one of the five "Supreme Organs of Democratic Power". Under this new law to be passed, any citizen making criticisms of Mr Burnham can be detained (locked up) for up to three months by the Minister of Home Affairs.

This is no joke. In a country where cars are arrested for carrying wheat flour, anything is possible.

This is the joke: Under the 1980 Constitution, Article 50, there are five "Supreme Organs of Democratic Power"--the Parliament, the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs, the Supreme Congress of the People, the Cabinet and the President.

Any Democratic Custom is a Democratic Institution

Any democratic custom is a democratic institution. Many of the democratic institutions of the Guyanese people were mortally wounded after the PNC took power.

When Mr. Burnham became Prime Minister in 1965, and in 1966 he became Prime Minister of independent Guyana--the head of government could be taken to court on an election petition. A voter could ask the court to declare the seat of any elected member vacant or he could ask the court to declare that the election was bad.

Mr. Burnham put an end to that democratic institution.

The head of the government of Guyana is not subject to any election petition. You can go to the Court of Appeal and argue that he is not qualified to be elected, but you can't go to court and argue that his election was unfair, or corrupt.

The court cannot cannot hear such an argument. The law does not allow it.

More Powers to Them

Nowhere in the Commonwealth Caribbean has any set of rulers given themselves as much power as this lot.

Nowhere in the Commonwealth Caribbean have the democratic institutions of the people been so trampled by the rulers.

Now they are giving themselves new powers to lock up people on the grounds that these people are undermining democratic institutions.

No powers were used to protect people from bandits, but powers are being found to protect the rulers from their fears.

CSO: 3298/795

GUYANA

CUBA'S CASTRO HAILS GUYANA'S INDEPENDENCE, CLOSE TIES

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 26 May 85 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] President Fidel Castro Ruz of Cuba has expressed satisfaction with the development of relations between Guyana and Cuba and has reiterated his wishes that these relations be strengthened.

His satisfaction was expressed in a message to President Forbes Burnham on the occasion of Guyana's 19th anniversary of Independence.

Cde. Castro's message was one of several received by the President. Among the other well-wishers are President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands and Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei.

In his message, sent with his "highest consideration and esteem", Cde. Castro wrote:

"To mark the 19th anniversary of the Independence of Guyana, I wish to send to you, and through you, to the people and Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the fraternal felicitations of the people and the Government of the Republic of Cuba.

"On this occasion, we note that the ties between Guyana and Cuba continue to strengthen. This is reinforced by the results of the 10th session of the joint Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical collaboration.

"In expressing our satisfaction with the development of these ties, I reiterate our wishes that these will be strengthened and I express my confidence that we will continue to work together in the struggle in defence of the right of independence and sovereignty, the full exercise of self-determination of our peoples, for a just and equitable New International Economic Order, for social progress and for peace for all peoples."

CSO: 3298/796

GUYANA

PNC ORGAN ASSAILS U. S. POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 19 May 85 p 5

[Text] WHILE the slaughter of Blacks has been intensified into daily atrocities committed by the white minority oppressors in apartheid South Africa, the voices in many countries, including the United States, are also intensifying the atrocities and denouncing the system of apartheid. However, there are others who encourage support for the apartheid regime. One supporter is the US Under-Secretary of State.

shores of New England. According to illogical and warped thinking of the Under-Secretary, the persecution of the Pilgrim Fathers was right and the Pilgrim Fathers themselves were wrong to resist the British might.

Perhaps the Under Secretary is really implying that whatever Whites do is always right and it is wrong for Blacks to resist Whites even in the interest of their freedom.

A recent report from Washington quotes the Under-Secretary as saying that the United States is right to support apartheid South Africa.

Since, as he claims, the United States Administration is right to support the apartheid regime, it is also right for the US administration to send military equipment to South Africa for killing Blacks. It is also right to aid the apartheid regime in its war against the freedom fighters in Southern Africa.

Right for the US is might, but as history has proven might invariably succumbs to the inevitable triumph of right.

The United States itself came into existence as the "Thirteen Colonies" when the Pilgrim Fathers ran away from might and established a new home on the bleak

CSO: 3298/796

GUYANA

PEOPLE'S MILITIA PLANS TO INCREASE OFFICER RESERVE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Jun 85 p 3

[Article by Trevor Pearson: "GPM To Strengthen Corps of Reserve Officers"]

[Text] The Guyana People's Militia [GPM] intends to increase the number of Reserve Officers in order to have persons responsible for commanding sub-units which have already been established, GPM's Staff Officer for Operations and Training, Captain Lawrence Paul has said.

Capt. Paul noted that at the moment there is a great need particularly for female officers to command female sub-units.

The GPM is the Reserve Unit of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) and supports the GDF in its functions. Its Reserve Officers are involved in military training, seminars, conferences, parades, field exercises and administering of junior soldiers on a part-time basis.

In an interview with the GUYANA NEWS AGENCY, the GPM's Training Officer pointed out that of 36 Reserve Commissioned Officers there is only one female.

However, he added, prospects for the future seem brighter since there are six female Cadet Officers in the present batch of Reserve Officers.

Three batches of Reserve Officers have been commissioned after undergoing training at the GPM Training Base at Seweyo on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway.

The GPM is now seeking applicants for the fifth batch of Reserve Officer Cadets.

Reserve Officers are required to undergo one year's training comprised of two two-week courses and one weekend each month.

However, Captain Paul said that some Officer Cadets, especially those living far away from the Training Base and those living in the hinterland regions, are given special concessions during training sessions.

According to the GPM Officer, the Reserve Officers, who enjoy the same privileges as a Regular Officer, are professional persons including doctors,

nurses, teachers, clerks, journalists and managers and they come from both the government and private agencies.

Discussing the response from employers to the granting of time-off, Captain Paul observed that the level of co-operation has been heartening recently as employers appreciate the reasons behind the implementation of the programme.

CSO: 3298/817

GUYANA

CHANGES IN POLICE FORCE PERSONNEL, POLICY CITED

New Components

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 May 85 p 1

[Article by Albert Alstrom: "Police Force Restructured...For Greater Effectiveness, Efficiency"]

[Text] The Guyana Police Force has been re-organised and restructured to make it more effective and in keeping with progressive changes.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner of Police, Cde. Balram Raghubir yesterday--days after Minister of Home Affairs, Cde. Jeffrey Thomas had spoken of the changes at the Police Officers' Conference last week.

The CHRONICLE learnt that legislation is to be introduced shortly to put the Police Service on a new path to better serve the community.

Two new Departments have been established and two Divisions have been upgraded within the establishment.

The Divisions that have been upgraded are East Coast, Demerara, and the West Demerara. An Assistant Commissioner of Police is to be appointed to the West Demerara Division. Assistant Commissioner of Police Alvin Smith is already at the East Coast, Demerara Division.

There is a new structure in the hierarchy but the Commissioner maintains the overall responsibility for the Force.

Deputy Commissioner Cecil "Skip" Roberts now heads "D" Department and will be responsible for Law Enforcement.

Deputy Commissioner Laurie Lewis is now responsible for Research and Organisation.

Deputy Commissioner Charles Godfrey heads the Presidential Guards.

Assistant Commissioner Elaine Harper heads Administration.

22 July 1985

Assistant Commissioner Ronald Fraser will be in charge of "B and C" Departments (Finance and Stores) and Assistant Commissioner Joe Sam will be in charge of "E and F" Departments and will be responsible for Operations.

Assistant Commissioner Joe Beckles heads "H" Department and will be responsible for Security and Immigration.

Assistant Commissioner Frank Armstrong continues to be in charge of the interior.

Cde. Sultan Kassim has been promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Police.

Minister Thomas, in his address to the Police Officers disclosed that over the past six months the services of a number of officers and other ranks were terminated "in the public interest."

And, a number of recommendations, in relation to the filling of vacancies, are to be put up to the Police Service Commission.

Attention is also being paid to promotion among the other ranks.

The whole exercise is aimed at making the Service more effective and efficient.

Outside Recruiting

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Jun 85 p 8

[Text] The Guyana Police Force is to intensify its programme for recruiting cadets from outside of the Force, Minister of Home Affairs Jeffrey Thomas has announced.

The move is aimed at providing the Force with the best personnel in an effort to make the Service more efficient.

Speaking at the recent Police Officers' Conference, Cde Thomas said he recognised that there had always been resistance to cadets joining the Service from outside of the Force. That resistance was perhaps because of efforts to protect the Service and not allow it to be infiltrated.

He was happy, however, that there was an agreement for the administration of the Force to intensify its programme and recruit cadets from outside of the Force at the Officers' level.

The Minister advised that efforts be made to recruit young, enthusiastic people with specialised skills who can make a contribution to the Service and to the country.

He urged officers not to forget that conditions of service must influence people's work and at the same time their efficiency.

While people tended to associate conditions of service with the salary they receive, he did not believe that such a comparison was applicable to the Force, given the fact that the Police are called upon to work 24 hours per day.

The Minister advised that there was need to keep in focus the necessity of providing the facilities and organising the conditions which would produce a better policeman, a Police Officer and hence, a better community.

CSO: 3298/817

GUYANA

RICE GROWERS UNDER PRESSURE TO IMPROVE CULTIVATION

Arrival of Fertilizer

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 May 85 p 1

[Text] The Guyana National Trading Corporation yesterday received 51 880 bags of urea fertiliser valued at \$2,16 million--the first of two shipments of this agro-chemical for use in the rice industry.

This nitrogenous fertiliser will be used by rice farmers in the cultivation of the second rice crop from which a bumper yield is expected as 130 500 acres are to be planted.

Guyana Rice Board General Manager, Leon Dundas, said recently that the Abary area of the MMA scheme will be putting large tracts of land under cultivation for this crop and especially high yields are expected from this land which is benefiting from a new drainage and irrigation system.

According to a GNTC release yesterday, arrangements have already been made for coastal vessels to ship supplies of the urea directly from the delivery ship in Georgetown to Anna Regina in Region Two and Corriverton and Region Six.

The release said that adequate supplies are expected to be in the various regions by weekend.

This expeditious move to get the fertiliser to the rice-growing areas stems from the fact that more than 66 000 acres for the second crop have already been ploughed although some farmers are now finishing off harvesting of the first crop.

In spite of the land preparation for the first crop being unsatisfactory due to late harvesting of the 1984 second crop, in adverse weather some of the yields recorded after reaping of more than 80 per cent were 26 and 24 bags per acre, Cde Dundas said.

Meanwhile, GNTC's Executive Director Vibert Parvatan said there would be no change in the selling prices for the urea at either wholesale or retail levels.

The retail price to farmers will be held at \$73,27 for a 50-kilo bag, the release said.

Warning to Lease-Holders

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 May 85 pp 4-5

[Text]

CHAIRMAN of Region Five, Cde Barket Ally has warned lease-holders of rice lands that if all these lands are not put under cultivation for the 1985 second crop their leases could be cancelled.

Cde Ally's warning earlier this week was prompted by the fact that only 19 000 acres have been put under cultivation for this crop although the target for the Region is 50 000 acres.

And, moving through West Coast, Berbice, he found that thousands of acres have not been under the plough for a number of years.

West Berbice includes the Mahalica-Mahalcony-Abary area which has already begun to benefit from extensive drainage and irrigation works implemented by Government.

The Regional Chairman made it clear that the land was allocated to farmers for

production, and noted that the continued land development works there are costing the Government and the region a lot of money.

He indicated that high agricultural production, especially from rice, is therefore expected.

Cde Ally observed that as a result of the drainage and irrigation works in the area, farmers there do not have to await rainfall for land preparation and broadcasting

of seeds, as water is always available in the main and branch canals, and lands can be flooded at will. He urged farmers to put every available acre under cultivation.

And, the Executive Committee of the MMA Agricultural Development Authority met recently and decided that there will be no increase in land rates for this year although the cost of maintaining the drainage and irrigation systems has risen steeply.

Such expenses are normally recovered from land rates, but to do so this year it meant that charges would have been increased by 20 per cent over that of 1984.

The Authority decided that the consequent shortfall in revenue would be met by internally generated funds.

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GUYANA

BRIEFS

POLLYDORE ON SUBVERSION--General Secretary of the Guyana Trades Union Congress, Joseph Pollydore, has pledged to oppose any move by international organisations to destabilise the country or subvert the Government. Addressing the eleventh Biennial Conference of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union (AT&GWU) last Saturday, Cde. Pollydore, also the union's Executive Secretary, reportedly said he would be the first to reject such action and bring it to the attention of the Government. The TUC General Secretary, who holds important posts in international trades union organisations, said that financial assistance could come from any source. And he reminded his audience at the Critchlow Labour College of the days when assistance used to come with 'no strings attached' from the American Institute for Free Labour Development (AIFLD). Cde. Pollydore also retraced some of the enjoyable periods of his life, citing his 25 years of service to the then Transport Workers' Union and called on trade unionists to keep close to their members. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 May 85 p 1]

PRC AID--Anna Regina, Essequibo, (GNA-GIS)--A biogas digester at Onderneeming on the Essequibo Coast was commissioned by Energy and Mines Minister Harun Rashid last week Saturday. The digester was built with Chinese assistance. And, at the commissioning ceremony, Cde Rashid spoke of the need for developing countries to help each other. Chinese Ambassador Ni Zhengjian who was also present at the ceremony, said that he was extremely pleased that Guyanese technicians have mastered the art of constructing the biogas digester. He said his Government supported the transfer of technology among developing countries. And Cde Joe Singh, Director-General of the Guyana National Service urged members of the New Opportunity Corps at Onderneeming to take good care of the digester to ensure that maintenance is done frequently. The biogas digester was the first to be built in Region Two, and also the first on a Guyana National Service site. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jun 85 p 8]

RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY--Guyana and Uruguay have agreed to proceed with the appointment of Non-Resident Ambassadors to each other's capitals. This agreement was reached during consultations between Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson and his Uruguayan counterpart Enrique Iglesias. The two Foreign Ministers met in Port-of-Spain during the just concluded session of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). Uruguay is a South American Republic bordered by Argentina in the west and Brazil in the north.

A joint communique signed by Cde Jackson and the Uruguayan Foreign Minister said the two countries had exchanged notes at the end of the consultations on the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. "Both countries reaffirmed their adherence to the principles of the character of the United Nations and agreed to proceed to the appointment of Non-Resident Ambassadors," the communique said. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Jun 85 p 1]

AIRSTRIp COMPLETION--The first flight of a heavier type aircraft into the upgraded Lethem Airstrip was made Thursday. After the flight, the pilot of the Guyana Airways Corporation DC 6 aircraft was quoted as saying the landing at the newly extended and upgraded airstrip was "perfect." The 80,000-pound aircraft took into Lethem a cargo of bitumen and fuel consigned to the Civil Aviation Department. The material is for further work on the airstrip, which is seen as being of great importance to economic development of the vast Rupununi area. Although the airstrip can be used by aircraft, including heavier types such as the DC 6 which made its first flight to the strip Thursday, additional layers of bitumen are still to be added to the surface. The final phase of development at the Lethem airstrip will commence in September. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 8 Jun 85 p 5]

TRAINING IN USSR--Two Guyanese who pursued degree programmes in History and Economics respectively at the Patrice Lumumba People's Friendship University, Moscow, are back home after six years. The Guyanese, Cde. Avril Bacchus and Cde. Keith Vankenik left Guyana to pursue their studies in 1979. At present they are attached to the Secretariat of the Party. Avril majored in History while Keith majored in Economics. In addition to obtaining their Masters' Avril followed a one-year journalism course and also qualified as an interpreter of the Russian language into English. Prior to leaving for the Soviet Union she was a lecturer at the Cuffy Ideological Institute while Keith worked at the Ministry of Agriculture. In the Soviet Union both Avril and Keith were members of the vibrant PNC Special group in Moscow. In fact, on many occasions they functioned as resource personnel at functions involving non-Party students on the campus. Avril explained that the Party group in Moscow comprises not only students but members of the Guyana Embassy staff. The group provides forums for discussing national and international issues which affect Guyana. [Excerpt] [Georgetown NEW NATION in English 2 Jun 85 p 1]

DPRK MINING PROJECT--Georgetown, 11 Jun--Guyana and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) today finalised a joint venture project under which the two countries will carry out gold mining operations in the mineral-rich Essequibo region, a Guyana Government spokesman said. Final talks were held here between senior officials of Guyana's Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC) and a three-member team headed by Korea's vice-minister for trade, Kim Ha-Chong, the spokesman said. The visit follows closely upon the second meeting of the Guyana-Korea Joint Commission in Pyongyang at which the two sides agreed on Korean assistance with a hydro-power project at Eclipse Falls in the Essequibo region--an area claimed by neighbouring Venezuela. The equipment Korea is providing for the project--including excavators and bulldozers--is due here later this year and a team of

Korean technicians is expected by September to complete the technical design of the project and finalise construction arrangements. Officials here have said that the two sides also examined the possibility of establishing a joint shipping company and cooperation in the construction of a 1,000-hectare irrigation project at Abary, 48 miles east of Georgetown. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1640 GMT 12 Jun 85 FL]

CSO: 3298/818

JAMAICA

LOCAL-GOVERNMENT DISPUTE SPARKS ISLAND-WIDE PROTESTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Jun 85 pp 1, 3

[Text]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS staged a one-day islandwide demonstration yesterday to draw public attention to their dispute with the Ministry of Local Government over the reconstruction of the local authorities.

Although the demonstration was widely supported it had no serious effect on any of the local services and differed in form from place to place. Reports from correspondents and other sources suggested that most parishes were affected in some way or the other, but the workers gave various reasons for demonstrating and some went back to work earlier than others.

The areas mainly affected were public cleansing and public health services, the fire service, markets, infirmaries and other poor relief services. But areas such as children's homes were not affected.

The demonstration was called by the Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers (JALGO), which claims to represent some 90% of the over-5,000 unionised Local Government employees.

JALGO's General Secretary, Mr. E. Lloyd Taylor, told the Gleaner yesterday: "It is just a one-day demonstration. Tomorrow we will resume normality. But what the union has done is to bring forcibly to the attention of the Government and the people, the manner in which the Minister is carrying out his policies.

There is complete disregard for workers, discourtesy is shown to the union and what he is doing is virtually destroying Local Government."

Mr. Taylor said the union hoped the demonstration would encourage the Government to call in the workers' representatives and have negotiations on the restructuring programme.

Firemen throughout the island, who are also to be affected by the reconstruction, informed their superiors that they would only be answering calls. The Gleaner checked with the KSAC Fire Service and was told that cooks and janitors at various stations had stopped working for payments in lieu of outstanding uniforms, while the firemen said that their demonstration would go on until 4 p.m. and was in protest against the lack of equipment and fire units.

Following are reports from some correspondents:

St. Catherine Reporter

More than 500 workers in the St. Catherine Parish Council in Spanish Town began a demonstration this morning. From the Public Cleansing, Roads and Works, Water Supply and Markets Departments as well as the Infirmary, the workers say they are

protesting impending lay-offs and divestment of certain departments such as public cleansing to private contractors.

Their placards said such things as "Is this the end of local government?" "Local Government must stop harass the workers with lay-offs and redundancies," "A man without a job is dead".

Four Paths, Cn., June 3 (From our correspondent);

Over 1,000 workers from eight departments of the Clarendon Parish Council went on a protest demonstration this morning from 7 a.m. to protest against the impending redundancy of workers.

Port Morant, S.T., June 3 (From our correspondent):

Workers employed to the St. Thomas Parish Council are restive over their fate when some of the services being performed by them are handed over to the various ministries. After a short meeting with their union, JALGO, this morning some of them went on sick-out while those at the Morant Bay Infirmary have gone on strike.

There are signs posted outside the Parish Council building saying "Sorry, on sick-out", "A how we a go survive, we back in chains", "How will our children go to school?"

The workers at the infirmary who are on strike are picketing the gate. A spokesman for the workers said they were striking for back pay, uniform allowances and the removal of the present matron at the infirmary. Efforts to contact the matron have been futile.

Mandeville, Mr., June 3 (From our correspondent):

Workers at the Manchester Parish Council demonstrated outside the Parish Council office early this morning against what they say is "impending lay-offs and redundancy of staff at the Council".

Firemen said they would respond to fire calls but would not perform their other regular duties.

The JALGO representative said the workers would return to work after three hours but no work would be done for the rest of the day. One of the placards read "Redundancy cannot send our children to school."

JAMAICA

CARL STONE ASSESSES SEAGA'S ROLE IN ELECTIONS ROW

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jun 85 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

Even his greatest political enemies would have to admit that Mr. Seaga is one of the most cunning political strategists this country has produced. But it is precisely his excess of cunning and seeming ruthlessness in orchestrating political manoeuvres in the case of the 1983 elections and his recent moves on Local Government elections which have raised great doubts about the ethics of his management of power.

The late Justice Uriah Parnell was the first high ranking public official to publicly chastise Mr. Seaga for violating parliamentary convention in failing to give the opposition party a reasonable time period to get itself prepared for an election.

Our Governor General has recently added his voice to that of the late Mr. Parnell at a time when the opposition PNP is demanding elections to set right the questionable circumstances under which the JLP was re-elected in 1983.

The Governor General's statement was a clear expression of concern over what is emerging in the country as a political crisis of confidence and legitimacy in respect of Mr. Seaga's government.

Adverse public opinion reactions and some pressures within his own party induced Mr. Seaga to back off from his decision to unilaterally change Local Government boundaries by procedures that contravened the spirit of the electoral reform legislation.

Two choices

The parties seem to be quite some distance from any compromise or consensus on what the revised numbers of Local Government seats should be. Even if an agreement could be reached, there would simply not be enough time to sort out the minute details on individual divisional boundaries which would have to be done before an election could be organised on the basis of such a change. Such a process would require several months to straighten out.

The two choices we face is whether to have the local election on the basis of the old boundaries, but subject to changes that will come when new boundaries are worked out, or to delay the elections until an agreement is reached and new boundaries are set.

Clearly if the former were done, new elections would have to be held in the future to change over to the new boundaries.

The PNP is agitating for an early contest and threatening political protests if that does not materialise. The JLP on the other hand is stalling and seeking to delay the elections as long as possible.

JLP fears are quite obvious. The Government is now quite unpopular. It has recently imposed some cost of living increases that have aroused great anger and anguish across the country. This is clearly not a favourable moment for the JLP to go into any election contest. If the local elections end up with a large PNP majority, the Seaga government's credibility will be seriously challenged, especially at a time when Mr.

Seaga's overseas financial backers are beginning to doubt his ability to achieve any economic recovery here and are likely to be scaling down the level of foreign aid to his government.

The party disagreements over elections could become a serious source of political divisions in the country at a time when we need to be devoting our energies to dealing with our major economic problems.

Unacceptable

After the various experiences with Mr. Seaga's cunning ways, some inside the PNP have given thought to the prospect of a sudden snap election in which the JLP could again try to gain an unfair advantage by the timing of its election call.

While there is clearly nothing wrong with the element of surprise, we hope that Mr. Seaga does not again violate parliamentary conventions in the lead time he gives the opposition party to get itself prepared for any more elections.

Mr. Seaga's earlier legalistic defences of his 1983 election call are most unacceptable and unworthy of a party leader who must surely know that parliamentary government rests on more than just legalism and demands a minimal degree of trust that rules of the game will be respected.

While I accept the wisdom of the Governor General's suggestion about the need to insert some time constraint on the governing party's ability to call a snap election, it is surely a sign of political weakness if our political leaders cannot be trusted to abide by reasonable conventions that guarantee fairplay in elections.

Most people in the country don't wish to see any political disturbances over elections. The police handling of the Cross Roads affair has left many activists in the PNP angry and determined to take to the streets.

There is an increasing feeling within PNP circles that Mr. Seaga only responds to power and pressure and that it is only by massive and disruptive protest action that he is likely to agree to having any election (local or general) either in 1985 or 1986.

'Do the right thing'

In the national interest Mr. Seaga should set aside his usual political cunning, stubbornness and propensity for political manoeuvres and do the right thing by authorising the local elections on the old boundaries, subject to the changes that will come later when the parties agree on how many divisions there should be and what those boundaries ought to be. The plan to pay councillors should therefore be put in abeyance until the new arrangements are agreed on.

It cannot be in the interests of democracy for a governing party to be constantly postponing local elections because of fears that if and when those elections are held it is likely to be badly defeated. Some

constitutional limits need to be set on the circumstances under which such elections can be delayed as what has been happening is nothing short of an irresponsible manipulation of power to serve party interests.

There is a point beyond which cunning and political manoeuvres become self-defeating and the JLP under Seaga has certainly gone beyond that point in its management of electoral matters.

The impasse over elections and the various suggestions for constitutional changes raise the larger issue of whether this country does not need to set up a committee of persons representing all the political points of view and the constitutional experts to thoroughly review how our constitution and political system have worked since independence and to make recommendations for reforms. Such a committee could well encourage citizens to come forward with ideas for such revisions and changes and conduct meetings with the public all over the island.

One possible and important benefit would be that it would provide for national education on our constitution and on the basic elements and principles of our democracy. There is much ignorance on these matters and so much of the principles on which our political system rests often get buried in the heat of political battles between the parties.

Our Governor General needs to go one step further beyond his public criticism of Mr. Seaga's 1983 election call. He needs to try to convince the government and the opposition to agree on setting up some machinery

to review our political and constitutional arrangements so that we can iron out the flaws, insert improvements and change and modify those areas of the system that need to be changed to deepen democracy, increase accountability to the people and improve the workings of our democratic system.

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

END TO POSTAL STRIKE--Postmen at the Post and Telegraph Office in Kingston resumed work yesterday responding to the request from the Minister of Labour, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, that they resume work and allow him to discuss with them the dispute over payments for uniforms at the Ministry today. Mr. Smith had said last week that he would meet the four unions representing the postmen--BITU, NWU, TUC, and UUJ--at a meeting at the Ministry of Labour at 12.30 p.m. today to try and arrive at an amicable solution to the dispute. Attached to the Minister's proposal was the condition that the postmen resume by midday yesterday. Following a meeting with their unions the postmen resumed work at about midday. They had been on strike since May 21 demanding immediate payment of outstanding monies in lieu of uniforms for the period 1980-1983. The Ministry of Finance had said that the payments could not be made before July 12. The strike seriously affected the mail service as only registered mails were being sorted and dispatched from the office up to last week Wednesday when the Army was called in to sort and dispatch. The soldiers were withdrawn yesterday following the resumption. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 4 Jun 85 p 1]

FRG AID TO POLICE--An agreement for continued technical aid to the Ministry of National Security was signed by the West German Federal Government and the Government of Jamaica on Thursday. This will allow for further upgrading of vehicles in the Police Force. Under a Technical Aid Programme signed with Germany in 1983, the police force received 44 Granada motorcars. A shipment of spare parts was also received for units in the Constabulary Force's fleet of motor vehicles. Signing the agreement for continued aid on behalf of the Government of Jamaica was the Minister of National Security, the Hon. Winston Spaulding. Assisting were the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Herman Ricketts, and the Permanent Secretaries in the Ministry, Mrs. Clare Kean and Mr. M.D. Marsh. Signing for the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany were the Director in the German Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Security, Dr. Rolf Shaefer; a senior officer in the Ministry, Mr. Gunter Heckmann; and the Charge d'Affaires in the German Embassy in Kingston, Mr. Hermann Erath, a JAMPRESS release said. The signing took place at the Ministry of National Security in Kingston. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jun 85 p 17]

CSO: 3298/797

MEXICO

CHURCH SPOKESMAN CRITICIZES OPPOSITION AS WEAK, DIVISIVE

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Jun 85 pp 1, 7

[Article by Teresa Gil]

[Excerpt] The Mexican Catholic Church wants a strong opposition that can offset the government's excessive power and offer real solutions to the crisis. Opposition parties, however, are not meeting their obligations as civic institutions and, on the contrary, are creating rifts in the national body politic. The above comments were made by Francisco Ramirez Meza, the episcopate's director of communications, during the Catholic Church's most solemn celebration, Corpus Christi, at which Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada singled out unity and sacrifice as the central points of the Eucharist and called for faith and dedication to resolve current problems.

Ramirez Meza made public the bishopric's views on the budget cuts and asked that the neediest not be made to bear the brunt of the sacrifice after the meager wage increase that was given to workers, an increase "that represents almost nothing." He also spoke of our dependence on the United States, which, he argued, has not stopped many of our public officials from still talking about our independence and sovereignty. He said that the country was in the adolescence of its underdevelopment, while other nations, such as in Central America, are in their infancy.

Speaking in the sacristy of a cathedral filled with the faithful and their children carrying small crates, Ramirez Meza, the senior spokesman of the Mexican Episcopal Conference, harshly criticized the parties that are not fulfilling their mission and that are just criticizing without offering solutions. There are tremendous divisions between the parties that oppose the government, which prevents them from being a force that can truly offset the great power that resides in a single man, he indicated.

He came out in favor of a true multiparty system in which such organizations raise the political awareness of and benefit the people who subsidize them. "I am not referring, of course, to the sort of party system that exists in the United States, where a power group appoints the president," he asserted.

MEXICO

LONGTIME DURANGO PAN ACTIVIST SEES DECAY WITHIN PARTY RANKS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Jun 85 States section pp 1, 4

[Article by Salvador Nava]

[Text] Durango, Durango, 7 Jun--Juan Esteban Sanchez Cassio, "a staunch, lifelong PAN [National Action Party] supporter" and the main strategist in the election campaign that brought PAN candidate Rodolfo Elizondo victory in the race for mayor of Durango, has described PAN as divided and marred by opportunism, corruption, nepotism, bossism and the abandonment of its ideological principles.

Sanchez Cassio, who describes himself as "an active, militant member of PAN since the party's lean days," denounced PAN's current leaders, adding that "we, the real members of PAN, want to make the party a vehicle for improving the living conditions of the Mexican people. We are not after paid positions; we are not interested in being officials, and we don't want our party to become just the spoils of a few wealthy families."

As evidence of the crisis enveloping PAN in Durango, Sanchez Cassio accused the chairman of the Regional Committee, Federico Ling Altamirano, of "holding back the campaigns of the candidates for federal deputy, Joel Rosas and Fermin Nunez." He explained: "Ling, who is a multi-member district federal deputy candidate, knows that if the single-member district federal deputy candidates win, he will not make it to Congress. In other words, if Fermin and Joel win, Ling will not be a deputy. And if Ling makes deputy, it will be due to the defeat of Fermin and Joel."

Sanchez Cassio made his unusual charges on a television program and during a subsequent press interview said that under its current regional leadership PAN in Durango is seeking to attract "fanatical voters" through its criticisms of the government but without offering real alternatives or workable programs.

"I appeal to these fanatical voters to reflect, before they cast their ballots, on the interests represented by PAN's candidates for deputy in this state: Joel Rosas and Fermin Nunez, two sons of the wealthiest families in the city," he said.

"I want the people to win, but the people win only when they are offered choices. What choice does Fermin Nunez represent, a rich man who has fallen on hard times because he wasted his inheritance on bad business deals? What can the people expect from a man like Joel Rosas, who as a candidate is avoiding a political confrontation. If they were to win, they would become part of the domesticated opposition that waits for instructions before speaking out..." he charged.

Categorical in his assertions, the burly Sanchez Cassio possesses great political acumen. "I cannot conceive of a PAN member who just points out mistakes and fails to offer solutions. I cannot agree with a fellow like Ling (the engineer who is PAN's state leader), who already served without distinction as a deputy during the 51st legislative session, just like his brother Alberto, who is a member of the current session. I don't understand a deputy like Enrique Sanchez Espinosa, who is so colorless and lackluster that no one speaks either well or ill of him and who was sent to us in Durango as a present."

Accusation Plus Evidence

The man who ran the campaign that carried Rodolfo Elizondo and PAN to victory in the Durango municipal elections almost 2 years ago describes Elizondo now as "a domineering local boss surrounded by a coterie of opportunists without experience or principles, who like Rosas and Elizondo are seeking deputy seats as if they were titles of nobility to enhance their families' prestige."

He went on to say: "Nothing remains now of that unaffected, charismatic, candid, mild-mannered and smiling boy who made my heart glad when I ran his campaign. Today, drunk with power, puffed up with conceit, swell-headed and arrogant, he is a political boss who hands out party posts at his whim without even being a party leader."

He then noted: "I don't want my fellow party members to see my accusation as a personal insult. This accusation is a fact that I can prove. I am speaking out because I have the evidence. I am prepared to answer to Rodolfo Elizondo. He can even come to my home, but sober, since his fondness for alcohol is public knowledge, not like the day before the Fifth District Convention, when he showed up at my house, walked in and ignoring my wife and children, said to me: 'So you're going to...' and let out a string of unprintable insults and obscenities."

Sanchez Cassio remembers the days of the romantic, spirited, almost heroic campaigns in which a true party spirit was at work.

"That's why now, when we have scored victories, when we have money and when we have won over a great many voters, it hurts me to see these little-rich-kid opportunists come on the scene and, because they are friends with the mayor, sit down in a bar and decide the nominations,

thus falling prey to the same vices that we are supposedly combating, that are bad when we denounce them but that are fine when we are the ones engaging in them."

He clarified that he is not against new people who might be deserving standouts entering his party. "First, however, they have to do party work, serve as activists, learn the ropes, not just come in and take over executive posts and displace the longtime fighters who enabled PAN to survive its most critical moments. Federico Ling, for example, with one stroke of his pen ousted the party's founders, as well as Jesus H. Elizondo, Ramon Perez Gavilan, Carlos Garcinava and the Najera brothers and reduced me to a mere sympathizer."

He said that this unprincipled behavior has caused a rift within PAN in Durango. Rodolfo Elizondo and Joel Rosas have had confrontations. As an instance of nepotism, he mentioned that Federico Ling, the chairman of the Regional Committee, appointed his wife treasurer when there were better candidates for the job.

He asserted: "I respect and even love my party. I am a PAN backer through and through, and in spite of the blunders of Federico Ling, Elizondo and their crowd, I will remain in my party and become active again when the people I knew return. It does not matter if we have to move back to a modest headquarters like the old building on Victoria Street. What matters is unity, integrity, having people other than Federico Ling, who thinks he is indispensable, not just necessary. I call on him to withdraw his candidacy and to let us work in peace, as our bylaws stipulate, so that the party can rise again, because now it is falling into discredit. And the election results will tell the tale..."

8743

CSO: 3248/410

MEXICO

NUEVO LEON STATE CONGRESSMAN RESPONDS TO SUSPENSION BY PAN

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 17 May 85 p 1-B

[Article by Lourdes Solis]

[Text] Mario Aguirre Villafana asserted yesterday that the National Action Party (PAN) suffers from centralism and disorganization because of its growth crisis.

Whereas some PAN activists have said in interviews that they regard the suspension of state congressman Fernando Gallegos Castillo as just, Herminio Gomez said that it was a drastic measure that might tarnish the party's image.

Gallegos Castillo was stripped of his rights as a PAN member for 2 years last Wednesday after the Political Commission ruled that he had violated party bylaws.

The suspended congressman said that the news hit him like a "blast of cold water" and felt that the decision was unjust.

Aguirre Villafana said that PAN is unfortunately going through a period of centralism and disorganization because it is growing.

"PAN should strengthen its organization. I am sharply critical of its campaign organization. It is not what it ought to be, and this is Mario Aguirre, not PAN speaking," said the former state congressman who was removed from office by the local Congress.

He said that he supports the suspension of the congressman, feeling, however, that the same measure should be applied to other party members who have violated its bylaws.

"The party should also check up on its councilmen. There hasn't been any hue and cry over the bills for the Revolution and Constitucion bridges or the traffic turmoil. They haven't nabbed anyone."

"You can't just move against easy targets," he said; "you also have to attack the sacred cows. To put it more respectfully, the approach has to be even-handed."

PAN yesterday published an announcement saying that Aguirre Villafana is not an official party spokesman.

The former state congressman said he was sorry the party spent so much money clarifying something so obvious.

Herminio Gomez felt that the decision by the PAN Political Commission was very drastic and could tarnish the party's image.

He said that the current political situation demands that the party pay special attention to the image it projects during the campaign.

"This will very likely have negative consequences that will tarnish the image of unity that our party enjoys and could have an adverse impact on its performance at the polls."

Unjust Suspension

Gallegos Castillo said that he does not plan to return to PAN when his suspension, which he regards as unjust, expires because that would be tantamount to admitting that the party was in the right.

He remarked that he would look into the invitations from other parties because he has no plans to retire from politics.

He said that he was never called in to clarify a situation while the PAN Political Commission was considering his suspension.

Nevertheless, he stated that 2 months ago he had spoken with Prieto, who asked him to request a leave of absence from the Congress or from the party.

"From this talk I got some inkling of the suspension, but they never talked to me and I couldn't raise objections," he added.

PAN accuses him of not defending Aguirre Villafana during the expulsion proceedings, of receiving favors from Graciano Bortoni when Bortoni was government secretary and of not sponsoring bills as a PAN legislator.

He acknowledged that he is a friend of Bortoni but denied that he had received money "under the table."

A Sound Move

Canales Clariond, the party's gubernatorial candidate, said that he supported the measure taken by the Political Commission although he regretted the need for it.

"No one is indispensable," he added. "Anyone who violates the bylaws must be suspended."

He denied that the suspension means that there is a rift in the party.

Prieto, PAN's regional chief, noted that this is the first case in Nuevo Leon in which a member of PAN holding a popularly elected post has been suspended.

He stated that the measure is healthy for the party because Gallegos Castillo was passive and undisciplined.

There are no rifts in PAN, he said, inasmuch as there was unanimous approval of the move.

Consuelo Botello de Flores, who is running for a state congress seat in the third federal district, said that the suspension of Gallegos Castillo was a just action that was necessary for the party's health.

"We cannot have people like that in the party," she said, "because such officials seriously tarnish its image."

Alfredo Corella, a state congressional candidate from the second federal district, said that the party's decision was something that Gallegos Castillo had coming to him by not complying with its bylaws.

"The only thing that the party did," he said, "was to remind Mr Gallegos that he was going to be punished if he did not keep his word."

8743

CSO: 3248/410

MEXICO

ILLEGAL WORKER ENTRY TAKEN UP BY INTERIOR UNDERSECRETARY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 May 85 pp 1-A, 16-A

[Article by correspondents Alfredo Cordova and Porfirio Diaz]

[Text] Tapachula, Chiapas, 25 May--Yesterday, the undersecretary of interior, Jorge Carrillo Olea, announced that the chief executive would issue a resolution whereby the country's migration services will be restructured, delegating authority to 13 regional offices to alleviate all the red tape involving migration, except authorization for immigrants or those who have immigrated.

The official admitted that there is a lag in migration services, and also noted that, "drastic measures will be adopted against any case of corruption, including police forces which sometimes act overtly," identifying themselves as being associated with the Interior Secretariat, "and many others who assume spurious identity as members of the migration services and thereby increase the corruption."

Meanwhile, the undersecretary of the Office of Comptroller General of the Federation, Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, announced that measures would soon be enacted in other sectors to speed up the public service and heighten the levels of integrity.

Both officials spoke at the meeting on the rendering of migration services in the border zone, held by Soconusco in Tapachula, Chiapas.

Carrillo Olea remarked that it is impossible for the government to establish regulations that might prove arbitrary, for lack of communication. Hence, it is necessary to set up forums that will benefit all sides.

He added: "The government is obligated to protect those workers who enter the country legally to render a service that is demanded; but, similarly, it is obligated and wants to fulfill the obligation not to allow illegal workers to displace the Mexican labor."

In commenting on the decree to be issued by the chief executive to restructure the migration services, the official said: "This confirms the fact that Miguel de la Madrid has decided to adopt new types of organization and operation for

all the migration services, as a response to the social demands and the guidelines for democratization and moral renewal."

Carrillo Olea requested that a Chiapas commission be set up to voice the state's requirements with regard to migration services.

At the meeting, it was announced that the checkpoints would be eliminated in Chiapas, and that the "mobile units" would be regulated, the inspection of which must be improved and their powers and responsibilities demarcated.

He also announced that there would be new types of permanent identification for the migration services workers, to prevent confusion. The official explained that their functions would be required at airports, railroad stations and bus terminals to provide for the details of inspection activity.

The meeting was attended by the governor of Chiapas, Absalon Castellanos Dominguez.

2909

CSO: 3248/412

BRIEFS

GUATEMALAN SOLDIERS CROSS BORDER--Garita Talisman, Chiapas, 3 June--Agents who were on guard at this border told EXCELSIOR that four heavily armed Guatemalan soldiers crossed the international bridge over the Suchiate River in a camouflaged jeep and penetrated over 200 meters into Mexican territory. For obvious reasons, the agents requested that their names not be published, since the authorities required that they not provide any information to the news media. The Guatemalan soldiers, all of whom were young, were driving the aforementioned vehicle without any identifying plates, but were stopped by the agent from the Security Directorate who asked them to return to their territory and, if they wanted to enter national territory, told them to do so unarmed, and fulfilling the essential requirements. The attitude of the Guatemalans was one of amazement, and they "naively" inquired whether they were located outside of Guatemala. They later proceeded to board their jeep and returned to their country. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Jun 85 States Section p 2] 2909

TAMAULIPAS ATTRACTS CENTRAL AMERICANS--Tampico, Tamaulipas, 22 May--The current target of the Central American undocumented persons is Mexico and, specifically, Tampico, which appears to have a considerable supply of jobs in the area of economic development in the southern part of Tamaulipas, according to a comment made by the agent of the Interior Secretariat in the port, Roberto Olguin Perez, who added that, previously, the destination of those workers had been the United States. The official added that the foregoing statement was based on the responses given by the illegals during the surveys being taken by the office to detect "wetbacks" working on farms in Tamaulipas. He reiterated that the main reason for the arrival of scores of undocumented persons in this area is the corruption among the migration authorities in the southeastern section of the country who, in exchange for money, allow them to enter; as well as that of the civil authorities who, through extortion or by providing forged birth certificates, empty the pockets of the immigrants. Moreover, in Hermosillo, Sonora, nine foreigners were arrested near the settlement of Benjamin Hill by the Federal Highway Police, while being carried in a 1978 Ford pickup truck with a locked aluminum body. This report was made by the agent of the Federal Public Ministry, Galindo Lopez, who noted that the small truck was driven by the Mexicans Ramon Palma Islas and Victor Manuel Diaz. The Mexicans will be remanded for the crimes cited in Article 118 of the General Population Law, and in the case of Palma Islas there will be added the crime of bribery, for having offered his truck to the federal agents if they would allow him

to escape. The aforementioned subjects were taking the undocumented persons from the southern part of the country to the town of Tijuana, from which they would attempt to move them into the United States. A third individual, Francisco Celaya Sarabia, was to travel from Guadalajara as far as Tijuana, where he would help them to cross the borderline in exchange for \$100 per person. All of those in custody, including a few women, were left at the disposal of the Federal Public Ministry. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 May 85 States Section pp 1, 4] 2909

SALVADORANS HELD IN VERACRUZ--Poza Rica, Veracruz, 7 June--The Judicial Police first commander, Jose Luis Sanchez Osorio, announced that, early this morning, the local police arrested 89 Salvadorans, presumed to be undocumented, who were subsequently turned over to the migration authorities of the Interior Secretariat with headquarters in the port of Tuxpan. He remarked that the Salvadorans were at the Nuevo Leon Hotel in the downtown section, where they were discovered by police forces. When they were requested to show the documentation that would accredit their entry into the country, it was decided to turn them over to the pertinent authorities. In conclusion, he commented that, to date, this is the largest group of foreign origin to be detected as illegal in the area, and that the authorities (owing to the large number of charges in the case) had decided that those now under arrest should be turned over to the migration department. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Jun 85 States Section p 3] 2909

IBEROAMERICAN MASONS URGE MORATORIUM--Acapulco, Guerrero, 14 June--Upon the conclusion of the International Convention of the Iberoamerican Association of Masonic Powers, all the attending delegations came out in favor of a moratorium or suspension of payment on the foreign debt of the Third World nations, "because of the usury stemming from high interest." Present at the closing of the event was Governor Alejandro Cervantes Delgado, who said that President De la Madrid "is seeking a solution to the country's economic problems, and no one will confuse or divide us." He gave a reminder that the legacy of Masonry "lies in independence and reform." He claimed that the voices of Simon Bolivar and Lazaro Cardenas, who fought for justice, freedom and democracy, are still resounding in America; and that this same policy is espoused by the president of the republic in the economic and political areas, as well as in international relations. Shortly before this, the director of the Mexican Masonic Organization, Carlos Vazquez Rangel, declared: "The peoples of America and the world are ready to fight in order to defend themselves against the attacks from abroad, charging them two or three times more interest." He said that this must not be tolerated, because the people are suffering from the worst crisis in their history. The new president of the Iberoamerican Association of Masonic Powers, Alfonso Peyon Vega, agreed with this. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15 Jun 85 States Section p 4] 2909

CSO: 3248/413

PARAGUAY

COLORADO PARTY REAFFIRMS LOYALTY TO STROESSNER

PY072307 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 7 Jun 85 p 1

[Statement released by the Executive Board of Colorado Party in Asuncion on 6 June]

[Text] Pursuant to an in-depth analysis of the current political status quo and of the origins and development of certain outbursts from self-proscribed elements of the opposition and individuals who have been expelled from the Colorado Party, the members of the Colorado Party Executive Board have unanimously agreed to address national and international public opinion to express their incorruptible loyalty to the constitutional government presided over by General Alfredo Stroessner, and their acknowledgement of the institutional loyalty of the Armed Forces of the nation, the two being key elements in implementing, through democratic normalcy, the Colorado Party's social and economic development program for the Paraguayan people.

The Executive Board also decided to publicly repudiate the slanderous and offensive campaign whose foreign and domestic dissemination through various news media seeks to distort the nation's image by means of offensive propaganda against its authorities and falsehoods, the only purpose being to elicit negative reactions toward Paraguay, its constitutional government, the Armed Forces, the Colorado Party, and the practicing opposition, those votes and proposals reflect the democratic pluralism in effect, which is open to the participation of all individuals and political groups with no requirements but those set forth in the Constitution and the laws.

In conclusion, the Executive Board has reviewed the internal status quo of the Colorado Party and the cohesion and unity of its ranks, and its members have agreed that this unity has remained unchanged and strong since the historical embrace on 27 October 1955, the lasting achievement of the process of normalization launched on 4 May 1954 and reaffirmed at the party convention in March 1956. Outside this unwavering path which the Colorado Party has been following for over 30 years are only those rebel elements who were at one time expelled from the party by their peers' votes, a decision that has recently been confirmed at memorable conventions.

The Executive Board urges all fellow party members to remain united around the party's republican and democratic principles, the backbone of institutional

normalcy, political stability, democratic opening, and national development, which are the main achievements of our time under the enlightened and patriotic leadership of the president of the nation, General Alfredo Stroessner. It also urges fellow party members to remain on alert against the slanderous campaign that has been worsening lately, clearly aimed at dividing the party, in the awareness that with a united Colorado Party, no conspiracy can succeed nor will regression hamper Paraguay's march toward its lofty objectives: freedom, order, development in peace, and democracy without communism.

Signed: Juan R. Chaves, President

CSO: 3348/748

PARAGUAY

COLORADO UNIVERSITY YOUTH REPUDIATE PARTY DELEGATES

PY201550 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Jun 85 p 12

[Paid ad dated Asuncion, 17 June 1985, entitled: "The MIC Withdraws Its Confidence and Requests a Change of Party Delegates," addressed to Juan Ramon Chaves, president of Colorado Party Executive Board]

[Text] In the name of the Movement of Colorado Integration (MIC) we address the president in order to reiterate our firm and energetic position in defense of the statutes, regulations and resolutions of our party, which have systematically been disobeyed by the delegates that the Executive Board has named to the Colorado University Center Dr Ignacio A. Pane [an auxiliary organization of the Colorado Party made up of university students]. The arbitrary attitude of these delegates encourages us, as young idealists, to express and petition the following:

A. The MIC withdraws the confidence of the Colorado university youth from the delegates that the Honorable Executive Board has named to the Colorado University Center Dr Ignacio A. Pane: Doctors Pedro Hugo Pena, Americo Velazquez and Martin Chiloa.

B. It requests the naming of other delegates who will be able to respond to the high party responsibilities and who will carry out their functions based on the principles of the Colorado Party, without letting themselves be influenced by the obscure and disgraceful interests of individuals or groups.

C. If this untenable and arbitrary situation persists, we will feel force to resort to the rank and file who make up our glorious Colorado district sections, urging them to request, in accordance with the party statutes, a special convention of the National Republican Association, ANR [Colorado Party], in order to defend the sacred party regulations that are currently in force.

The MIC also confirms its never-ending loyalty to the only leader of the Colorados, His Excellency the President of the Republic, Army General Alfredo Stroessner.

We remain yours faithfully.

[Signed] On behalf of the MIC Propaganda Committee: Maximo Ozuna, president; Fabio Persio da Silva Boschert, secretary; Claudio Balbuena Acosta, member; Julio Cesar Carreras Quevedo, member; and Genaro Cristaldo Ibarra, member.

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